

July 23 1996

Tuesday July 23 1996

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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,612

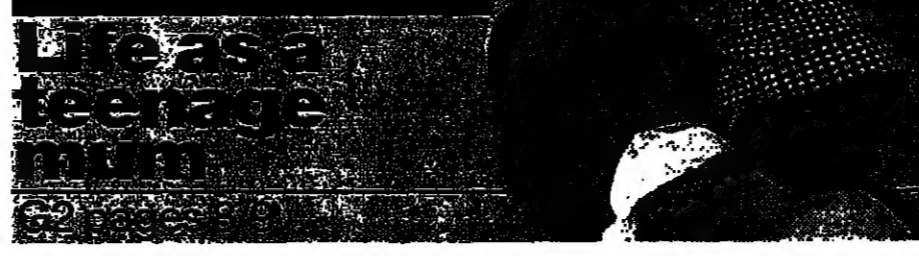
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Julie Burchill on booze, Blair and boys



G2 with Julie Burchill on the weather

A 16-year-old writes...



Education

Major rules out concessions to sceptics □ Cabinet line dismissed as confusing and disappointing

Minister goes, Tories despair

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHN Major last night ruled out concessions on the Cabinet's European policy after the resignation of Treasury minister David Heathcoat-Amory prompted renewed fighting between rival factions within the Conservative Party.

Cabinet loyalists were in despair and many Tory MPs were puzzled that a fastidious colleague, who had managed to remain in the key post of deputy chief whip during the bloody passage of the Maastricht Treaty, should jump

ship now and blight the Government's latest hope of recovery by calling for outright rejection of British involvement in a single EU currency.

Euro-sceptics were delighted. "In the short term, the Cabinet will dig in," said one. "In the medium term this will help us win on this issue." And speculation persisted, despite Downing Street denials, that other restless ministers wish to leave the government as it enters its last, desperate fight for survival.

Mr Major will conduct a limited reshuffle today in the wake of the resignation.

Despite Mr Heathcoat-Amory protesting that he had

planned to go quietly in the reshuffle, his resignation has been dragged out over four days since it was first leaked. Last night he twisted the knife with a resignation letter that dismissed the Cabinet's carefully-crafted compromises on the single currency as useless in the face of a "relentless drive" towards political union.

"This policy is not working," he told Mr Major. In the crucial paragraph of his letter he pointedly described the Cabinet's agreement to avoid ruling out membership of a Euro-currency bloc during the 1997-2002 parliament as "an equivocation confusing to the public and disappointing to most of our supporters".

This is the nub of the struggle slowly tearing the Tories apart. Sceptics believe that ruling out a single currency before 2002 would unite their party and help Mr Major beat Tony Blair. Loyalists believe in keeping options open — and in not appeasing Thatcherite fundamentalists.

"If people want to give up the pound they should vote Liberal Democrat or Labour," Mr Heathcoat-Amory said on Channel 4 News. "We should give them a big simple choice." He added that voters were "ahead of us" in rejecting the single currency. That is an article of faith among sceptics.

The Labour MP, Dennis MacShane, last night accused

Mr Heathcoat-Amory of hypocrisy in accepting large sums of EU agricultural subsidy for his farms.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said in his letter to Mr Major: "When something is clearly against the national interest, it is our job as the party of the national interest to make our position clear — and resist it now."

He told the Prime Minister he would campaign in favour of a looser, free trade relationship with the EU, starting this morning with a pamphlet.

In his reply Mr Major conceded: "I understand the passions aroused by this issue," but added that it was in Britain's interest to stay at the

heart of the debates on planning a single currency, to which France and Germany are committed by 1999.

If a future cabinet does decide to enter, there would be a referendum, he reminded the MP after telling him: "I believe it is a mistake" to quit.

As Paymaster-General and former minister for Europe, Mr Heathcoat-Amory had some influence on European issues, said some Tory MPs sorry to see him resign.

"Where better (to serve) than in the Treasury where Ken Clarke is a complete Euro-maniac? I am puzzled and saddened. I wish he had stayed," said ex-minister and sceptic, Patrick Nicholls. David Mellor called the deci-

sion "decadent" so close to an election.

As John Redwood and other sceptics rejoiced, the deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine told ITN he was "sorry" about the resignation. Labour was delighted at fresh Tory disarray. "Kenneth Clarke is increasingly isolated. He can't even persuade his own ministers to support him," Gordon Brown declared.

But the shadow chancellor will face his own critics when leaving sceptics launch a pamphlet called The Single Currency — Axing Labour's Programme.

TUC presses Bank on ERM, page 11



David Heathcoat-Amory... 'policy not working'



A technician removes embryos from frozen storage, where they can be kept for up to 10 years with parents' permission. PHOTOGRAPH: HANK MORGAN

Frozen human embryos to be destroyed

Parents cannot be found as 4,000 fertilised eggs face deadline

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

UP TO 4,000 frozen embryos from about 900 couples are to be destroyed at the end of the month because the parents cannot be contacted, have shown no interest in the fate of their potential children or do not want them any more.

The destruction has to take place because Parliament said in 1990 that, from August 1991, embryos could only be frozen for five years, meaning the deadline is up on July 31. In May the regulations were changed so that embryos could be stored for 10 years, but only if the parents were contacted and gave their permission.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which regulates clinics holding the embryos, said yesterday: "The regulations allow many patients to extend their consent to 10 years or more in

some exceptional cases. But if that consent cannot be obtained the storage has to cease, which means, sadly, allowing a number of embryos to perish.

"But if you think through the other options — of using them without the consent of the individuals, or of keeping them stored indefinitely — those options are far less acceptable."

"Some have suggested that these embryos should be donated or 'adopted'. This would be wrong both legally and ethically. Consent is crucial and, if consent cannot be obtained, storage must cease allowing the embryos to perish."

Professor Ian Craft, of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, said: "These embryos were created to bring children into the world so we feel great sadness that they will have to be destroyed, but it would not be right to give them away or use them for research without the consent of the parents."

Embryo storage regulations

UK Ten years with parental consent
USA/Canada No regulation
Germany Banned
France Five years max.
Netherlands No regulation
Belgium No regulation
W. Australia Three years max.



said about 9,000 embryos faced the five-year deadline. Of these, 9,100 embryos from 950 couples would perish because it had not been possible to contact the parents; another 1,200 embryos from 260 couples would be destroyed because the parents had been contacted but did not reply.

About 10 per cent of the parents that have been successfully contacted by clinics have said they no longer want their embryos kept in storage, meaning the final number to be destroyed is likely to be around 4,000.

The majority of frozen embryos are just four cells, and in some cases only two — so are smaller than a pinhead. They will be brought out of frozen storage, allowed to reach room temperature and then destroyed with a drop of water or alcohol.

Parents who have been contacted and want their embryos destroyed can be present if they wish.

Mrs Deech said that since storage began in the late 1980s, about 300,000 embryos had been created, so those being destroyed represented a small proportion of the total.

Sheep organ ban in new BSE scare

John Palmer in Brussels

THE European Commission last night signalled a sweeping ban throughout Europe on the use of sheep and goat organs in the food chain after new scientific evidence indicated that BSE is being transmitted to sheep.

EU farm ministers, meeting in Brussels last night, were desperately playing down fears of a new food crisis. They described the latest proposals, unveiled to them by Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, as precautionary. But the move caught them by surprise.

Officials privately expressed worries that a beef-style consumer panic, which devastated the industry, could be triggered by suggesting the scale of the BSE problem was greater than thought. There were predictions last night of a one third fall in sales of sheep products.

Britain and France, the main European producers, would be hit hardest. But lamb is not subject to the new proposals.

Scientists previously accepted there was a link be-

tween the scrapie disease in sheep and BSE in cattle. But they now concede what they thought was scrapie might instead be BSE. One of their difficulties is the similarities of the diseases.

Whereas it was assumed cattle picked up BSE through meat and bone meal containing sheep scrapie, it may now be that sheep have instead contracted BSE from feed contaminated with diseased cattle. Farmers were banned from giving meat and bone meal to cattle or sheep seven years ago, although it could still be given to pigs and poultry until last year.

Under the new controls, to go before the EU veterinary group next month for approval, sheep and goats spleens and central organ tissues will be banned from food and feed use. The group will consider age limits.

Announcing the new measures in Brussels, Mr Fischler said latest research showed that BSE is more widespread

in the body of sheep than of cattle, going beyond the nervous system.

"I believe it is right and proper to take another step towards protecting human and animal health. We must avoid a repetition of the events which led to the BSE epidemic in the UK."

"We also need to act positively to restore public confidence in beef and perhaps to avoid loss of confidence in other meat. It is essential that all food and feed is free from potentially infected material."

The French government last month announced a ban on the use of sheep brains in food manufacture. But Mr Fischler said the EU had to go further. "The true BSE and scrapie situation in all member states is not fully clear."

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union urged caution. "People need to look at the science, not the emotion. If Mr Fischler has concerns, we would want to discuss them with him."

Inside

Police are trying to work out how a family of five died at their home in Southampton, amid suggestions there was a suicide pact.

4

Britain

More than 7,000 Rwandan Hutus have been expelled from refugee camps in Burundi in four days, and there is no sign of a let-up.

7

World News

As the EJC today calls for a more positive approach to monetary union, 50 Labour MPs will oppose it in a new pamphlet.

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Finance

Steve Redgrave has walked from the Olympic village at Atlanta, frustrated, about overcrowding and problems with athletes' transport.

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Sport

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Software set to tighten Microsoft's grip on Net

Ben O'Hall and Jack Schofield

JUST when you thought it was safe to buy a computer and check out the joys of surfing the Internet, Microsoft is poised to spark a revolution in how people use the global network of the users' computers and telecommunications.

The American computing giant is developing software that could effectively turn a home computer into a terminal on the Internet.

When users have logged on, they won't spot the difference between a file they have drawn up to manage their personal finances and another they have located on a computer in, say, the basement of Nasa's headquarters in Washington.

The style will be the same, with only the content differing. Highlighted text will provide links to what a user turns to page 2, column 3

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2 NEWS

Sketch

Prime deputy going cheap



Simon Hoggart

A MOOD of exhilarated anticipation gripped us as we trooped into the Press Gallery at 2.30 yesterday afternoon for Deputy Prime Minister's Question Time.

Journalists love a freebie, and this was the ultimate junkie — a chance to hear Michael Heseltine discuss government policy without spending a penny of our own money.

What seems to have happened is that this government has turned itself into the equivalent of a chain letter — the ones which threaten you with tragedy if you don't send money to the top address on the list.

Of course, as with any other chain letter, this doesn't work. It's what the statistics boffins call a "zero-sum game".

We've already got the threats. "A worker in York broke the chain by voting Labour, and lost his job, thanks to the Social Chapter. A Bideford company failed to send £50,000 to the Conservatives and went bankrupt. Send a cheque now! You will receive £25."

Mr Heseltine said virtually nothing about this scandal, and simply accused Labour of being in the pocket of the trade unions. More today from John Major, I expect.

Further anonymous letters arrive concerning Michael Fabricant, currently parliamentary private secretary to a junior Treasury minister, but my choice for the new Paymaster General.

Hold it! A fax has just arrived from Michael Fabricant. He is to ask the first question to the Prime Minister today, concerning the effect of government policies on the people of Lichfield.

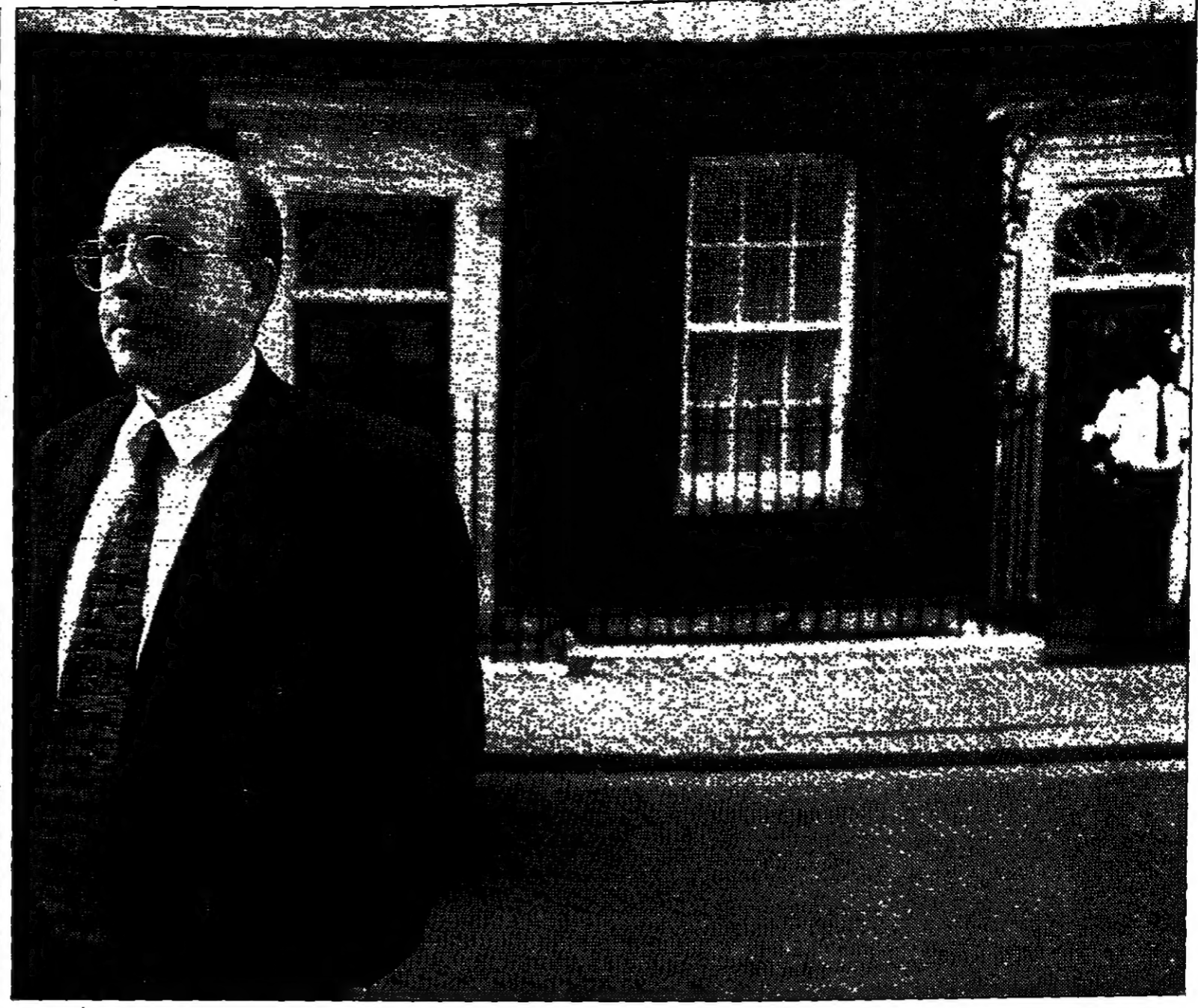
And tomorrow he introduces the Union Flag Bill to encourage people to reject Labour devolution policies. "Fabricant — Lust for Glory" continues unthreatened, unhindered and unabashed.



Paddy Wilson, murdered with his girlfriend Irene Andrews, sought to cross the sectarian divide. Their killer John White (right) claims 'I have committed myself to peaceful and democratic ways'



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH



Unforgiven: man who now enters No. 10

'While he faces John Major will he reflect on the screams of his victims?' Peter Hetherington on the case of John White



Lord Fitt... I find this too hard to take

THEY had just enjoyed ham sandwiches and tea after a day campaigning in Belfast's old Dock constituency. Paddy Wilson, a senator in the old Stormont, then went to deliver election leaflets to the Irish News, Northern Ireland's nationalist daily.

John White, who served 14 years of a life sentence for the two murders, was elected to the Northern Ireland Forum in May. Yesterday, to the horror of Lord Fitt and a string of nationalists, he met the Prime Minister at Downing Street in a deputisation for the Ulster Democratic Party.

brutal murders they had ever come across. It was a terribly traumatic time. He was murdered just after he left me and you never forget that.

Mr White yesterday appealed for people to recognise that he had "turned over a new leaf". But Lord Fitt thundered: "I have never forgiven him. He admitted it."

Lord Fitt is unforgiving. "It was the worst thing I have ever seen. The police said they were two of the most

'I am here to ensure that incidents like I was involved in will not happen again'

Peter Hetherington in Belfast and Michael White

JOHN Major's struggle to keep the Northern Ireland peace process alive last night led him to shake hands with a convicted loyalist murderer, as a signal to paramilitary forces on both sides that an unequivocal commitment to non-violence could lead rapidly to direct political influence.

John White emerged from 70 minutes of talks with the Prime Minister in Downing Street to emphasise his own commitment to the pursuit of peace. "I am here to ensure that incidents like I was involved in will not happen again and I have committed myself to the peace process like many other ex-prisoners," he told reporters, alongside Gary McMichael, both representing the Ulster Democratic Party.

David Irvine, who served 11 years for possessing explosives, and Hugh Smyth.

The meeting was widely seen as an attempt to keep the loyalist paramilitaries' ceasefire intact amid growing strains following the recent violence.

Though no details were offered, Downing Street strongly defended Mr Major's decision to hold face-to-face talks with the group of loyalists — in the face of Unionist criticisms.

Breaking a policy of avoiding personal contact with organisations once linked to terrorism, No 10 sources said Mr White, now UDP prisoners' spokesman, had been subject to the law of the UK and had served a sentence.

Review

Fairy tale lacking danger and irony

Andrew Clements

The Silver Lake Royal Albert Hall/Radio 3

SOME works are impossible to detach from the historical context in which they came about, and Der Silbersee, The Silver Lake, is certainly one of them.

Singspiel tradition, of which The Magic Flute is the most famous example.

Like Mozart's masterpiece, it was written for a cast of singing actors, for a cohesive and experienced troupe of the kind found in every self-respecting theatre in the Weimar Republic, performers who could move from speech to song and back again with total fluency.

That kind of ensemble hardly exists today, and adjustments need to be made. This time the singing and the acting were divided. Kaiser's text had been divided down by Jeremy Sams to a witty linking narration and to translations of extracts from the original smartly delivered by a cast of three, while the vocal numbers were allotted to a separate cast of singers.

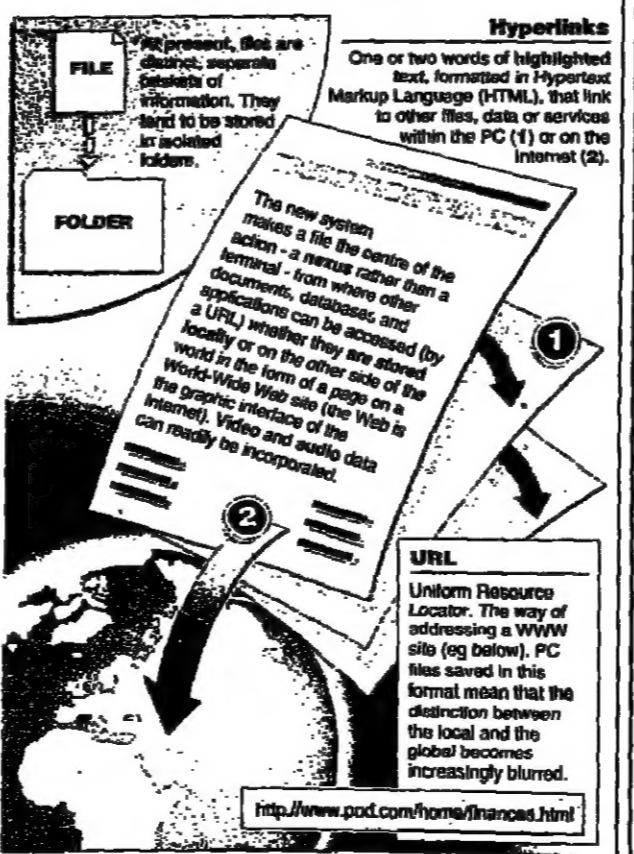
Microsoft tightens grip

continued from page 1

spent last year touring Africa, or give them the latest information on what caused the recent Ariane 5 accident.

Microsoft has been gathering steam to make its presence felt ever since it decided eight months ago that the Internet was here to stay.

While the software tightens Microsoft's squeeze on the Internet, the good news is that it does not necessarily make existing hardware redundant.



by enthusiasts. Until Nashville is released, Microsoft will incorporate this latest development in the fourth version of its Internet Explorer browser, software designed for surfing the net.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance. Features text: 'PAY YOUR MOTOR AND HOME INSURANCE BIT BY BIT, INTEREST FREE.' Includes phone numbers: 0800 121 000 and 0800 121 004.

Europe court to rule in test case on gay rights at work

Sarah Bosseley

THE case of a lesbian British Rail employee, Lisa Grant, who was refused a concessionary travel permit for her partner, has been referred to the European Court of Justice for a ruling that could prove a watershed for gay rights.

heard the case in May, want the court to answer is whether "discrimination based on sex" includes discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Ms Grant had applied to BR in Southampton where she worked for a concessionary travel pass for her partner Jill Parcy, but was refused on the basis that the privilege was accorded only to opposite-sex partners.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Former Pan' and 'There's nine of the there night to you'.

Leftwing challenge to leadership's cabinet slate boosted by surprise entrants, but some MPs accuse whips of strong-arm dissuasion

Seven defy Blair's shadow poll edict

Rebecca Sutthers
Political Correspondent

S EVEN Labour MPs last night broke ranks to put forward their names for tomorrow's shadow cabinet elections, in addition to the official leadership "slate" — the current 19-strong line-up which Tony Blair wants to retain as his "cabinet in waiting".

Despite the disciplinary grip exercised by Mr Blair

and his whips to maintain party unity, three surprise entrants had put their names forward when nominations closed last night.

They are leftwing backbenchers Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North), Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West) and Lynne Jones (Birmingham Selly Oak). As expected, fellow leftwingers Tony Banks (Newham NW), Paul Flynn (Newport West) and Chris Mullin (Sunderland South) also put their names forward.

The two mainstream chal-

lengers are Ann Clywd, who is likely to attract votes from Welsh members and the left wing, and in protest at Mr Blair's shadow health secretary, Harriet Harman, who sent her child to a selective grammar school, and Jack Cunningham, who failed to get elected last time but was nevertheless appointed as heritage spokesman.

The leadership wants to retain the existing team, with Mr Cunningham replacing overseas development spokeswoman Joan Lester, who has

decided not stand for re-election on medical grounds.

Nominations closed after a weekend of what some Labour MPs yesterday complained of as "strong-arming". All Labour's 60 remaining frontbench spokesmen and women decided not to stand, while dissidents such as leftwinger Irene Adams were dissuaded at the last minute. She has yet to be re-elected as candidate in Paisley North and MPs hinted at discreet pressure from her local party.

The real test will be the extent to which Ms Clywd splits Ms Harman's vote, and to which MPs ignore the whips' advice to stick to the slate.

Last night leftwingers claimed the leadership had "the contest in the bag" because at least 35 MPs have registered proxy votes in order to leave Westminster before the recess tomorrow. Conspiracy theorists believe the party whips will cast them *en bloc* for the Blair slate, something the whips deny. An MP can cast one

proxy vote and there are only six whips.

The result of the secret ballot will be declared tomorrow evening, and while Mr Blair is expected to use the line-up as the basis for his first cabinet, he is technically free to choose a new team should he become Prime Minister.

Yesterday Blairite MPs were insisting that the day was "very quiet. There is very much a feeling of comradeship — the important thing is to get the elections out of the way and then con-

centrate on the real battle — the general election."

But some MPs expressed their anger at the way they had been discouraged from standing in supposedly free and democratic elections.

Of Ms Adams's decision not to stand, a Scottish colleague said last night: "I was very surprised since last week she was adamant that she was going to stand. But I think she was reminded over the weekend of her vulnerability."

Despite the party backlash against Ms Harman, whips

were confident she would retain her place.

In a boost to her cause, the 3,000-strong Medical Practitioners Union — the doctors' section of MSP and the only medical organisation affiliated to the Labour Party — last night wrote to Mr Blair expressing its "full and enthusiastic confidence in Harriet Harman". Its president, Stephen Watkins, said: "Harriet has been an immensely successful shadow health secretary and she will be an outstanding secretary of state."



Adjusted for population growth and cinema ticket inflation, Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in *Gone with the Wind* would have taken nearly four times the amount grossed by ET, and Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* would have nearly doubled the *Jurassic Park* takings



BBC axes 60 monitoring station jobs

Andrew Gull
Media Correspondent

SIXTY jobs were axed yesterday at the BBC's monitoring station at Caversham in a fresh blow to the international prestige of the World Service.

The BBC blamed the redundancies on a £1.2 million efficiency drive following a cut in Foreign Office funding.

It coincided with news that a BBC governor has promised to raise concerns of World Service staff at a meeting with the corporation's chairman on Thursday.

Richard Eyre, director of the Royal National Theatre, was the only member of the 12-strong board of governors to respond to protest letters from staff angered by the BBC's management shake-up.

In a letter to staff at the service's Bush House headquarters, he is understood to have written: "I hear what you are saying. I will raise your concerns at the next meeting."

Tomorrow the BBC chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, will defend the changes at a meeting with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. He has written to 22 MPs who signed a Commons motion expressing concern with "an unhesitating guarantee" the service will not be damaged.

The job cuts at Caversham, in Berkshire, amount to

about 12 per cent of the 500 workforce. BBC Monitoring supplies information gathered from TV, radio, and news agencies in 140 countries and 70 languages.

A BBC spokesman said between 50 and 60 jobs were going and that Andrew Hills, director of monitoring, was holding meetings with the National Union of Journalists and Bectu, the broadcasting union.

World Service broadcasting faces £6.5 million efficiency savings, and Caversham had to find £1.2 million. The BBC is warning two foreign language services could also be closed.

Sir Christopher wrote to MPs: "We intend to make sure the distinctiveness of the World Service is preserved. The changes involved are considerable... But they are designed to strengthen the World Service."

He is likely to meet Mr Rifkind with Bob Phillips, the deputy director general, and Sam Younge, World Service managing director. The BBC said it had never been anticipated that director general John Birt, who went on holiday yesterday, would attend.

Voice of sanity in Rwanda, page 5; Letters, page 8

Frankly, everyone gave a damn

Dan Glaister
on the biggest movie earners of all time

Rank	Movie	Year	Box Office
1	<i>The Godfather Part II</i>	1974	£110m
2	<i>The Godfather</i>	1972	£100m
3	<i>The Ten Commandments</i>	1956	£90m
4	<i>Ben Hur</i>	1959	£80m
5	<i>ET</i>	1982	£70m
6	<i>The Exorcist</i>	1973	£60m
7	<i>Deliverance</i>	1975	£50m
8	<i>Shogun</i>	1980	£40m
9	<i>Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom</i>	1984	£30m
10	<i>War of the Worlds</i>	1953	£20m
11	<i>Star Wars</i>	1977	£19m
12	<i>Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back</i>	1980	£18m
13	<i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i>	1983	£17m
14	<i>Star Wars: The New Hope</i>	1977	£16m
15	<i>Star Wars: Return of the Jedi</i>	1983	£15m

The list includes several other surprises: the 1956 film *Around the World in 80 Days* is at number 10, with takings of £361 million at today's prices, while *The Exorcist*, the most controversial film on the list, at number nine with takings of £263 million, is sure to turn heads.

Julie Andrews manages two entries in the top 20, with *The Sound of Music* in second place and *Mary Poppins* at number 15, with takings of £224 million.

Spielberg has four films in the top 20, with total takings of £1,477 million. All of the Star Wars trilogy, made by Spielberg's sometime colleague George Lucas, are in the top 20, with combined takings of £1,073 million.

Outside the top 20, the quality of the films becomes decidedly variable. *Beverly Hills Cop* is at number 21, *Grease* at number 22, and *Animal House* at number 24, one place above *Home Alone*.

The average ticket price in 1989, the year of *Gone With the Wind*'s release, was 15 pence. By the time *The Sound of Music* was released in 1965 it had risen to 67 pence and 12 years later it had more than doubled to £1.48.

price, and the available US audience having doubled, most top film hits feature the last three decades. But by adjusting for population growth and inflation these

figures show that the guru of the blockbuster is not Steven Spielberg or George Lucas, but David O. Selznick, producer of *Gone With the Wind*.

Former Panorama chief takes charge of resurgent BBC2

Andrew Gull
Media Correspondent

A FORMER Panorama editor — in charge when John Birt, the director general, pulled a critical economic report on the eve of the election — was yesterday appointed controller of BBC2.

Mark Thompson, BBC TV's

head of factual programmes, will take over the channel's £228 million annual budget in the autumn. He succeeds Michael Jackson, who has been named director of television and controller of BBC1.

Mr Thompson, aged 39, joined the BBC in 1979 as a production trainee, working as a researcher on the religious programme *Everyman*.

He was the favourite for the £200,000-plus job, beating off competition from Paul Hamman, head of documentaries, and Jeremy Gibson, head of features at Bristol. Others on the shortlist included Peter Salmon, Granada's director of broadcasting, Kim Evans, head of music and arts, and Jana Bennett, head of science programmes.

Under Mr Jackson, BBC2 has been the only channel to increase its audience share. In 1985 this grew from 10.3 per cent to 11.2 per cent, pushing it ahead of Channel 4 for the first time in three years.

Christopher Graham has been appointed secretary of the BBC, assisting the governors in their role overseeing the corporation.

There was a time, from the late eighties to the early nineties, when London belonged to me. I was the Queen of the Groucho Club, and I totally enjoyed it. But now there's a kickback from this. There are only so many nights you can sit in the Groucho Club doing cocaine up to your eyeballs, hanging out with toof Londray.

G2 cover story

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4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Blind beggar jailed for murder

A BLIND beggar was jailed for life at Bristol crown court yesterday for beating a man to death. The jury unanimously found street busker David Workman, aged 20, guilty of the murder of Najinder Singh Bhari, 48, at Singh's flat in Gloucester in April.

Workman, a guitar player, showed no emotion as the life sentence was passed by Mr Justice Moses on the sixth day of his trial. Workman, blind since birth, had denied murdering Mr Singh.

The jury was told a friend had taken him to Singh's flat after he had been drinking and taking drugs. He immediately began punching and kicking Mr Singh, the Crown claimed. In a taped 899 call to police he admitted the killing, claiming he attacked Singh because he believed he had molested a schoolboy. Home Office pathologist Bernard Knight said Singh probably died from a blow to his adam's apple. Workman claimed he had not intended to cause serious injury.

Benefits workers' strike vote

BENEFITS Agency workers have voted to strike in a dispute over safety in their offices, threatening disruption to the payment of benefits. Members of the Civil and Public Services Association voted by 5,449 to 4,434 to take industrial action in protest at plans to pay the Jobseeker's Allowance from unscreened offices.

Union leaders must now decide their next move. Christine Kirk, the union's Benefits Agency secretary, said the vote reflected the anger of workers, even though the ballot turnout was only about 40 per cent.

The department is saying there is nothing to worry about, but our members obviously don't agree. We have tried everything to resolve this dispute, including a direct appeal to the Secretary of State. A strike ballot was the last resort and I believe a strike is inevitable.

Industrial action would disrupt the payment of income support, unemployment benefit, social fund and other benefits at offices throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

Protesters board submarine

MINISTRY OF Defense police were investigating last night how two women peace protesters managed to board a nuclear-powered submarine berthed in a Royal Navy base.

The women used scuba gear and the cover of darkness to enter the Clyde Submarine Base, home of Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, early yesterday, and climbed the gangplank of HMS Scorpene, a hunter-killer submarine.

Friends claimed they even had time to make a phone call from the submarine before being arrested by navy personnel and handed over to MoD police. They were charged under local by-laws and with committing a breach of the peace, then released.

£100,000 for pregnancy

A WOMAN who became pregnant after a sterilisation operation yesterday accepted £100,000 from the health authority responsible for the operation.

Zoe Bell, aged 39, of Stock, Essex, had decided that two children were enough after the difficult birth of her second son in 1987. Surgeons at Basildon hospital, Essex, cut her fallopian tubes in September 1989, but the following year she conceived again and her third son, Reace, was born in February 1991.

Mrs Bell sued Basildon and Thurrock health authority (now South Essex), alleging she was not warned that fallopian tubes might "reconnect". Her compensation claim included the expense of having an unplanned baby and loss of earnings - she had intended to return to work soon after her second son was born.

The High Court heard that she and her husband, John, had decided to accept an offer of £100,000, plus legal costs, from the health authority, which admitted liability.

Murder delayed

MURDER ONE fans will have to wait to find out how the 23-part American courtroom drama ends. Viewers inundated BBC3 with complaints after it postponed the ending until after the Olympics. Sky One offered to show the last three episodes, but was blocked yesterday when BBC lawyers took out an injunction.

Apology

ON MAY 28, 1996, the Guardian published an article about the English football team's recent tour of the Far East in which they included references to both Jarvis Astarie and Mark McCormack. The article suggested untruthfully that the tour was arranged less for the FA's financial gain than for the long-term benefit of individuals such as Mr Astarie and Mr McCormack acting in association with each other. Yesterday in court, Martin Davies, representing the Guardian, apologised to both Mr Astarie and Mr McCormack, who were represented by David Gore and Lee Newman respectively. The Guardian also agreed to pay undisclosed damages and costs.



Mahendra Karia (top left) who worked in a family-run shop, daughter Chandni, aged four, and Majuri Karia with two-year-old Shrira. They are all believed to have died from infections

Family of five 'poisoned in suicide pact'

Toxicology test to be carried out after police find syringe at home

Ruaridh Nicoll

POLICE were last night investigating the possibility of a suicide pact after a post mortem revealed poison in the bodies of a family of five found dead in their Southampton living room yesterday.

Hampshire police suspect that Mahendra Karia, aged 44, and his wife Majuri, aged 39,

took the lives of their three children, Chandni, aged five, Shrira, aged two, and four-month-old Bijal before killing themselves.

A police spokesman confirmed that a syringe was found at the house and police believe all five members of the family died from lethal injections. Further toxicology tests are being carried out.

Mr Karia, who worked at a family-run newsagent's and grocer's shop in Portsmouth,

was a Hindu, part of the ethnically diverse community who live in the St Mary's neighbourhood of the coastal town. The area was rated as the most deprived in the South-east last December. He was rumoured to have financial problems.

Lesley Tudor had been in bed late on Sunday night when there was a knock on her door. Her ex-partner, who was visiting their sick child, answered to find the Karias' brother looking worried. "He asked if we had heard anything from them next door and my ex-partner said no," she said. "Then he asked if he

could climb over the fence, so we got him a chair."

The brother came back after a few minutes and said he could not get in and the Tudors went back to bed. A few moments later they heard the brother, who had managed to get in the front, start screaming.

He had discovered the bodies lying together in the living room.

The family had been last seen on Friday when Ms Tudor saw Mrs Karia hanging her washing in the back garden.

Zamier Hussein who arrived in the street about one

o'clock after closing his restaurant, the Bombay Balti House, said: "When I parked my car I got out and asked a policeman what had happened. Of course they wouldn't say anything and so I spoke to one of the family. It was a good family. When they came out they would always say hello."

The Karias were Gujarati-speaking Hindus who had emigrated from Kenya in the 1970s. There are thought to be 125 Hindu families in Southampton, the majority of whom fled Idi Amin's regime in Uganda. The culturally diverse neighbourhood is

buoyed up by a much larger group of Sikhs.

Another neighbour said that the Karias were a solid family. Majuri, who she knew well, was "a very good person" and the children used to play happily outside.

Chandni had attended Maytree infant and nursery school. The head teacher, Bob May, said the family was devoted.

"Mr Karia was very involved with the children. He used to buy them reading books and read with the girls", he said. "He had high hopes for the children and expressed them to me."

Costa tourists ignore Whitehall terror warning

Sarah Boseley

BRITONS heading for Spain should bear in mind the upsurge of terrorist activity on the Costa Dorada, the Foreign Office advised yesterday - while stopping short of telling them to stay away.

Around 10 million Britons are expected to visit Spain this year and mass cancellations would seriously affect

the tourist industry there, as well as tour operators who would be forced to pay compensation if the FO instructed trippers to stay away.

So far, despite Saturday's bomb at Reus airport, it seems few holidaymakers have been put off.

Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "People are not cancelling holidays."

"We have talked to customers who have phoned us and let them make their own decisions. If they choose not to go they are likely to lose the money they have paid because there is no legal obligation on tour operators to pay

compensation if the Foreign Office says it's safe."

In its travel advice issued last night, the Foreign Office acknowledged that ETA, the Basque separatist movement, appeared to have resumed last summer's campaign of setting off small bombs in tourist resorts.

Until Saturday, it said, little injury or damage had been done, but the Reus bomb injured a large number of people.

Among the 33 taken to hospital were 24 British and Irish. British consular officials were meeting the Spanish authorities yesterday and Airt was talking to Spain's tour-

ism representatives to ensure all possible security measures were being taken.

"We want to drive home to Spain's director of tourism that if there are alarms at an airport you do something about it right away, not in 25 minutes," said Mr Betton, referring to reports that a warning was given to a Spanish newspaper a considerable time before the Reus bomb went off.

However, Spain's security minister, Ricardo Marti Fluchas, said the warning came too late.

"Bombs are very difficult to forecast and very difficult to prevent," he told BBC radio. "At Reus, we were told

there would be a bomb at 8.30pm, but that was not true and when the authorities started to evacuate, it was too late."

A boy of 10 and his mother, who both had shrapnel injuries from the blast, said yesterday that each believed the other had been killed. Tom O'Mahony, from Dublin, lay in a foreign hospital unable to feel his broken leg and thinking his mother was dead.

Tom, who is now off the critical list, said: "It was awful. Nobody spoke English. I couldn't feel my leg or anything. I felt terribly alone."

"When the bomb went off I thought it was like a dream. I was looking everywhere for

my mum. I was dragging my injured leg around and then four people dragged me and brought me outside." His 46-year-old mother, Una, said she saw him lying in a heap on the ground as she was stretched out of the airport, but the ambulance crew could not understand her cries.

"The ambulance drove away and I did not know if my son was dead or alive," she said.

She then spent a night worrying about her son.

After the pair were reunited on Sunday afternoon, Tom said: "I was really happy when I saw her again. It was the most beautiful sight in the world."

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'Our gifted girl taken'

Geoffrey Gibbs and Paul Webster in Paris

THE grieving parents of Caroline Dickinson, the Cornish schoolgirl raped and murdered while on a school trip to France, spoke yesterday of the crime that robbed them of their "quiet, loving and gifted" daughter.

A statement read out on their behalf by a local priest was accompanied by one of Caroline's poems (right). Its opening lines carry chilling echoes of her death in a youth hostel dormitory at Pleine Fougères, Brittany. Caroline, a pupil at Launceston College, was murdered as she slept on a mattress on the floor.



Pupils laying tributes to Caroline. PHOTOGRAPH BY SHAMUS McCAFFERY

Friendship

Small child crying, weeping, dying.
Alone on the concrete floor.
No one worries, life full of hurries,
Rushing past the concrete floor.
Someone hops, halts, stops.
Standing by the concrete floor.
Child looks up, hope, bright luck?
Lying on the concrete floor.
Friendship happens, opens, blossoms.
Away from the concrete floor.
Life is complete, happy, amity,
Through the summer days of life.

Caroline's parents agreed to make their statement on the condition that they and their family were not disturbed any further by the media.

The statement, read out by the Rev Tim Newcombe, vicar

Royal Ballet seeks new venue as Albert Hall declines hospitality

Den Glaister Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Opera House's plans to move to other venues while its base in Covent Garden, London, is closed, started to unravel yesterday when the Royal Albert Hall announced it would not host the Royal Ballet during the two-year redevelopment period.

The ballet, which shares the Opera House with the Royal Opera, will now be left to look for a large, arena-type venue for the 20 performances it wanted to give at the Albert Hall.

The snub to the ballet was compounded when it emerged the English National Ballet, which has been negotiating with the Albert Hall for five years, is close to announcing a regular presence at the Albert Hall.

Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs at the Opera House, said: "We're very disappointed. It is only three weeks of a 20

week season but they were vital weeks because they were in a large venue where we would have been able to attract a lot of revenue."

Patric Denchar, chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall, said the decision had been motivated by pressure on the Albert Hall's calendar, and its responsibility to its regular users, many of whom are small groups.

Richard Sallow, English National Ballet's head of public affairs, said: "It is an unfortunate irony our discussions with the Albert Hall have come to fruition at the same time as the Royal Ballet is looking for somewhere."

English National Ballet is understood to be creating new works for the Albert Hall as part of a 10 performance season for next spring. "We would like to make it part of our annual performing cycle," said Mr Shaw. "We want to present big, spectacular, classical ballet for larger audiences at reasonable prices."

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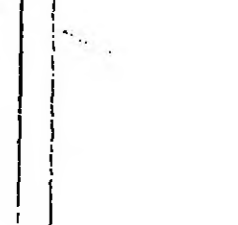
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Ethnic still s

Heathr tops Ca

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Callers to charity helpline give insight on lives 'blighted by bullying'

Ethnic minority children 'still suffer racism daily'

Stuart Millar

ETHNIC minority youngsters are still suffering blatant racial harassment on a daily basis, according to a report published by the charity ChildLine yesterday.

Despite years of progress in race relations the lives of many young people are being blighted by unrelenting bullying and abuse, it said.

Researchers analysed the case records of more than 1,600 callers to the charity's helpline who had experienced racism in the year to March 1995. Although they formed a tiny percentage of the 90,000 callers in the period, ChildLine insisted that the findings were significant.

Callers came from backgrounds including African, Afro-Caribbean, Asian, Jewish

'They call me black bitch'

"I'm coloured. They call me nigger and black bitch. I just want to be respected."

—Mandy, aged 14

"I am being bullied by girls at school because I'm slightly tanned. It's being going on for five years. My mum says ignore it, but I can't."

—Simone, 12

and Irish. Most described themselves as British.

In many cases, the perpetrators were other young people. One in four callers said they had suffered racist bullying.

Many were afraid to discuss it with their families or teachers.

A girl aged 13 said she had been attacked after school by three boys who poured petrol over her and called her names.

She was now terrified of walking to school.

Ethnic minority children in predominantly white schools were most at risk of harassment, the report concludes.

Around 75 per cent of those bullied described themselves either as the only one in their class or school or as one of very few similar children.

More than one in eight had experienced racism in the home — usually those who were in relationships their parents found unacceptable.

Around half described their families as racist. Some had come to resent their parents. One caller told the counsellor: "I hate myself, I hate my father. He made me black."

Valerie Howarth, ChildLine's chief executive, said: "These are not isolated incidents. For many young people these are a way of life."

Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission of Racial Equality, which is supporting ChildLine's campaign, along with Mizz magazine and Crime Concern, said the findings reminded him of his experiences as a child in the 1950s.

"For too many young people, growing up in Britain today means facing racially motivated violence and persistent racial discrimination."

Heathrow heat tops Caribbean

Lucy Manning and Martin Wainwright

PITY the people who booked a summer holiday in Bermuda — England was warmer yesterday with temperatures reaching over 32C (90F).

Temperatures were high across most of the country with 32C (90F) recorded at RAF Marham in Norfolk and Spalding in Lincolnshire.

However there was rain in both Scotland and Northern Ireland, with temperatures a low 15C (59F).

Holidaymakers heading abroad were having something of a wasted journey. Bermuda could only muster 31F, Corru 82F and Nice in the south of France, 77F. Sun-worshippers would have been better advised to stay at Heathrow where temperatures reached 31C (88F).

The weather caused discomfort with workers minimizing their attire. Investment banker SBC-Warburgs said: "People here were wearing shorts because we have a casual dress policy. They were smart shorts however."

Fire services were also kept busy with grass fires. A

spokesman for Wiltshire Fire Brigade said: "We are bringing staff in to crew the appliances. We are dealing with a lot of field and grass fires. The fields are very dry, and any misuse of cigarettes or matches starts a fire."

The heat prompted a warning about cooling off in reservoirs and canals, following the death of two teenagers at Ogden Water reservoir near Halifax on Sunday.

Mohammed Asif, aged 18, and Mohammed Naseem, aged 19, who was due to be married early next month, were in a group sunbathing by the reservoir. Two jumped into the water in spite of warning notices. One reached safety but Asif got into difficulties and drowned, together with Naseem, whose body has not been recovered, who swam out to try and help him.

Yorkshire Water and Calderdale council repeated warnings that reservoirs were lethal, especially in hot temperatures which increased the risk of death by shock. "The cold water is thought to have exhausted the two victims, who were both young and healthy, far more rapidly than they could have foreseen."

Heathrow heat tops Caribbean

Umpire juggles with evidence

John Ecard

THE mystique of the cricket field entered the High Court yesterday when an ex-umpire imitated a wicket keeper in action by hurling a ball from hand to hand in the witness box.

Don Osear, senior instructor for the Association of Cricket Umpires, did so to show the jury what England's Bob Taylor had done after Ian Botham threw a new ball to him in the 1982 Oval Test against India.

Mr Osear said that every time he had walked on to a cricket field the wicket-keeper would shout for the ball and would then slap it from one glove to the other.

"I think it's so they can ensure that they get the feel of the ball". He dismissed the allegation that Botham threw the ball to Taylor to "scuff off the lacquer as 'preposterous'."

He was giving evidence for Botham and Allan Lamb on the sixth day of their High Court trial. The hearing continues today, when David Gower, the former England captain, will give evidence.

uneducated and lacking class and upbringing.

Mr Osear said cricket balls could be knocked out of shape "by many things — clattering against iron railings, indeed going through glass windows".

He testified that it was common practice for certain bowlers to pick at the seam of a ball. He had taken part with Botham in five Tests and never seen him tamper with a ball.

Taylor denied he tampered with the ball during the 1982 Test. It was common practice for a wicket-keeper to try to get the excess moisture off a new ball, and to get the feel of it.

Robin Smith, the England batsman, spoke of an incident in a winebar before a Lord's Test in 1981. Imran Khan had asked how Pakistani bowler Aqib Javed was settling in at Hampshire, Smith's county side.

"There was an incident when Javed had tampered with the ball. Imran suggested that he should be a little more careful."



The Mexican sculptor Gabriel Orozco with La D.S. (pronounced desée, or goddess). It will feature in his show at the ICA, London, opening on Friday. The vintage Citroën car, a 1960s icon, has been cut up and reassembled. PHOTOGRAPH: TRICIA LING

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Tutsi victims relied on BBC radio to counter streams of Hutu 'lies'

Chris McGreal in Kigali recalls how the World Service became the voice of sanity amid the deluge of deaths and propaganda two years ago in Rwanda



THE FIRST word of the cataclysm ahead had come between the classical music and hate tirades on Radio Mille Collines.



David Bryer

But Tom Ndahiro had heard so many lies on the notorious voice of Hutu extremism he did not know whether to believe the report that Rwanda's president had been assassinated. Then the phone rang. It was the BBC.

Many can claim to have turned to World Service radio for verification during the early, often confusing hours of history in the making. But Mr Ndahiro got confirmation of what was to prove the kick start to genocide two years ago as the BBC sought his opinion on how the overwhelming Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) would react. He was

spokesman for a 600-strong RPF contingent trapped in Kigali's parliament building awaiting final implementation of a peace agreement when President Juvenal Habyarimana was assassinated. It doomed the peace deal, and hundreds of thousands of people to terrible deaths.

"Radio Mille Collines was the first to announce the death but we didn't know if it was true because there were so many lies on that radio. I realised it was true when the BBC called me. They wanted an interview in Swahili. When my brother in Dar-es-Salaam [Tanzania] heard he didn't imagine I would survive," he said.

Radio is a potent force in Rwanda, where there is no television. Radio Mille Col-

lines provided the rallying cry for genocide with its exhortations to kill Tutsis. State-run Radio Rwanda was only mildly more restrained. During those first few days inside the parliament building surrounded and outnumbered by Hutu forces, Tom Ndahiro was provided by the BBC with a crucial link beyond Rwanda's borders. The phone was cut not long after his chat with the Swahili service. "We had Radio Mille Collines going berserk telling people to kill Tutsis. We all listened to it because we had to know what they were saying. The BBC provided some psychotherapy," he said.

Not that he agreed with all the BBC had to say. While local radio spewed hatred, Mr Ndahiro says the World Service initially fell badly short by relying on Hutu stringers who made no mention of the unfolding genocide. "The information given by the local correspondents didn't mention the reality. They didn't mention the massacres at all. But it wasn't easy even for the BBC to know the truth at first. No one could know exactly what was happening," he said.

"The arrival of BBC World Service East Africa correspondent Mark Doyle made a very big difference. Then the picture was getting out. And the BBC kept us well-informed on what was happening at the United Nations and how the world was not going to do anything to put a stop to genocide."

As the full scale of the atrocities unfolded before Mr Ndahiro, the BBC also showed how different things could be. "There was Rwanda on the news but there was also the South African elections. Whereas you had South Africa, which had been under apartheid, stepping forward, we were stepping back a thousand years."

The BBC is now accessible to more Rwandans through a service in Kinyarwanda, albeit for just 15 minutes a day, part of which is dedicated to trying to reunite children with their families.

He was played by a pubescent girl in lurex tights with a woolly dog's head; a sort of Snowy meets the Sans-Culottes. Sebastian Faulks

G2 1996

6 WORLD NEWS

West presses Asean to act on Burmese rights

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Jakarta

SOUTH East Asian governments seeking to build closer ties with Burma will today hear the concerns of the European Union and western Pacific rim states over continuing political repression in the country.

The determination of Western delegations to air these concerns against the wishes of the host Indonesia will inject a note of discord into the six-day series of meetings which so far have celebrated the prospects of Burma joining the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

Asean admitted Burma as an observer at the weekend as a first step towards full membership, a process it is expected to complete before the end of the decade.

The Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, met his Burmese counterpart, Ohn Gyaw, yesterday to convey "strongly" the EU's "deep and serious" concerns over what it sees as the deteriorating political situation in Burma.

As current chairman of the EU Council of Ministers, Mr Spring was later asked if the Burmese had been cooperative. He said: "I think they certainly understood the concerns."

EU governments have stalled Danish calls for economic sanctions against Burma, referring the matter for study. But officials say Mr Spring will make it clear today that the EU sees developments in Burma as "fairly negative" and that relations will suffer if they remain so.

The US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, who arrived in Jakarta yesterday, has also distanced the Clinton administration from calls for sanctions. But he said Washington wants talks to see what steps Asean might be prepared to take "to try to ensure that the regime in Burma does not take additional repressive action and provides more openness for their people."

"We're very concerned about the situation in Burma," he added.

A number of Western governments are now saying, though privately, that Asean may find its standing and reputation compromised by its admission to full membership of a country such as Burma, tarnished by political repression and human rights abuses.

But Asean leaders show no sign of responding to an appeal from the Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi for pressure on the ruling junta. Asean governments concede that there are what the Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, describes as "some problems" in Burma. But they deny that this implies a failure of their "constructive engagement" policy towards Rangoon.

They have also dismissed with some irritation the opinion voiced last week by the European Commission vice-president, Manuel Marin, that Burma's admission to Asean could hurt EU ties with the association.

Mr Ohn Gyaw has sought to reassure Asean by pledging that Burma is committed to creating a multi-party political system and by acknowledging that it will have to adjust its legal system to meet Asean standards.

He sought yesterday to placate the EU by handing Mr Spring a report on the death in custody of James Nichols, the former honorary consul of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. Rangoon had ignored earlier requests for a full medical report.

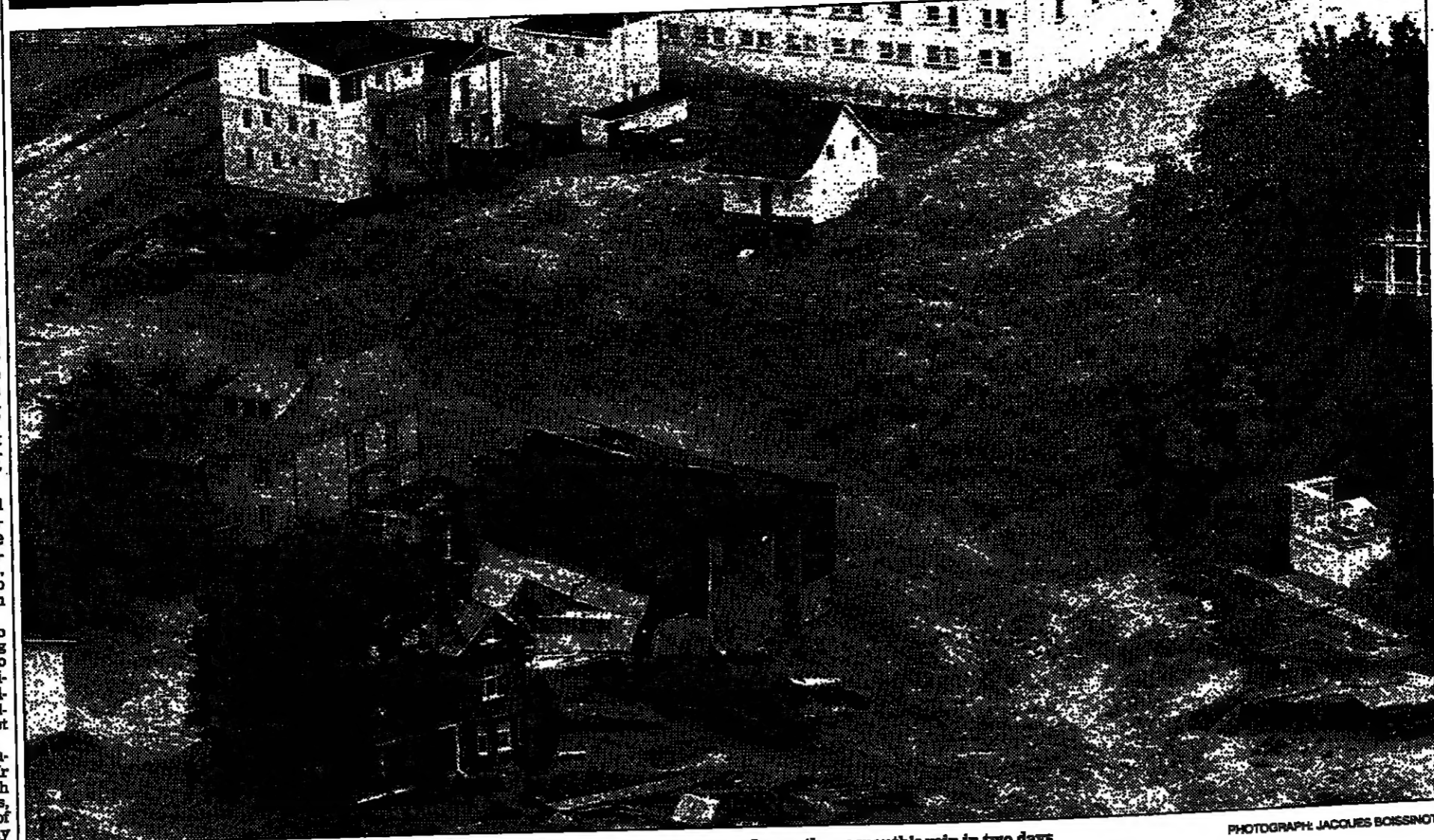
But at a press conference, Mr Ohn Gyaw blamed Mr Nichols' death on his eating "something incompatible with his health" and resisted calls for an independent autopsy as interference.

The Burmese foreign minister, defying calls for reconciliation with Ms Suu Kyi, made clear that Burma's ruling generals saw no need for dialogue with "an individual". His comments coincided with a commentary in the state-run press in Burma saying the "actress" Suu Kyi would not satisfy qualifications to become an MP in the parliament eventually to be created.

In May, the Burmese government arrested 262 members of Ms Suu Kyi's party in an attempt to block a meeting where she had vowed to write an alternative constitution.

Mr Ohn Gyaw insisted that those detained were not arrested: "They were invited and they were asked what was the purpose of their meeting," he said. Asked how many were still in detention, he said: "We do not arrest people at random. If they have transgressed the law, then of course they have to be punished."

As Britain swelters, people from China to Canada are dying in torrential rain and floods



Floodwater pours into central Chicoutimi, Quebec, as a dam gives way under the pressure of more than a month's rain in two days



Li Peng, prime minister of China (top), inspects the flooding Yangtze in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, as officials warn that the worst is yet to come, while citizens of south Bombay cool off in a flooded street



PHOTOGRAPHS: JACQUES BOESNOT (TOP); XINHUA, SHERWIN CRASTO (BOTTOM)

Beijing mobilises 8 million to fight the rising waters

Foreign staff

MILLIONS of people were battling yesterday against floods in south and central China which have already killed more than 800.

In Bangladesh and India, monsoon-related floods have killed nearly 100 people and in Canada eight died when torrential rain caused rivers to burst their banks.

As rain, accompanied in some places by lightning and gale-force winds, continued over much of southern China, swelling the mighty Yangtze river, officials warned of more to come.

"The new week brings the start of a 20-day period that is thought by experts to be the country's most dangerous in terms of floods," the official China Daily said. "It may be that the worst is yet to come."

About 8 million officials, soldiers, police, reservists and military academy students have been mobilised to rescue people trapped by the floodwaters and to strengthen flood defences.

By last Thursday nearly 4 million people had been cut off by floods, while 810,000 homes had collapsed and 2.8 million had been damaged in eight provinces, the ministry of civil affairs said.

Floods have killed at least 864 people in China this year and caused billions of pounds worth of damage.

But the state flood-control headquarters was "confident that the worsening situation would be under effective control as a whole".

Military helicopters have been airlifting rice, medicine, clothing and tents to a stranded, officials said.

The water level in China's largest fresh-water lake, Dongting in Hunan province, surged to 116ft, more than 8ft above the previous high mark, a local official told Reuters by telephone.

"The water level is the highest ever... the period of downpours is the longest ever," he said. "The area of farmland affected by floods is the biggest ever."

Officials warned that areas along the lower and middle reaches of the Yangtze, China's longest river, faced the risk of further flooding, putting rice and rapeseed crops in peril.

Rapeseed, harvested in June and July and expected to yield about 8 million tonnes, was under threat in Anhui and Guizhou provinces, a Hong Kong trader said.

"There is not enough rapeseed is left in the open. So if it is piled up somewhere when the rains come, that's it."

But the waters have receded in the south-western city of Luzhou, which was totally inundated to a level of four storeys, and left with 12 to 16 inches of mud, a local official said. Workers were cleaning the streets and checking to see if houses were safe to live in.

The prime minister, Li Peng, toured Hunan and Hubei provinces at the weekend and urged their people "to start reconstruction and the restoration of crop production where the flood has receded so as to have a bumper harvest in spite of the flooding", the Xinhua news agency said.

The total economic losses from the flooding in Hunan, Hubei, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Anhui, Guizhou, Guangxi and Jiangsu provinces in central and southern China were estimated at about more than 60 billion yuan (about \$5 billion).

In India, at least 30 people have been killed in landslides and 30 have died in floods in West Bengal since July 13.

Across the border in Bangladesh many people have taken refuge on the roofs of their half-submerged houses, while others have sought higher ground. People in shelters and those stranded in their flooded homes faced shortages of food, drinking water and other essentials, despite air-drops of relief goods by army helicopters, Bangladesh officials said.

Meanwhile, health officials said yesterday that diarrhoea had broken out, affecting thousands of flood survivors.

In eastern Canada, several days of heavy rainfall led to a small dam bursting late on Sunday in the river city of Chicoutimi in Quebec, adding to the estimated 10,000 people forced out of their homes to emergency shelters.

Tens of thousands are without electricity and telephone service. Flooded roads have cut off suburbs and whole towns in central and eastern Quebec.

The authorities fear that several other dams may fall under the pressure.

Alphabet soup makes it all as clear as your SEANWFZ

Reuters in Jakarta

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has an A-to-Z list of hundreds of abbreviations to identify its varied activities.

From AAA (Asean Airports Association) to Zopfan (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality), the alphabet soup of a list spells out how the group that was founded to foster regional economic and cultural co-operation has expanded in 29 years.

There is still room for confusion. ACF encompasses the Asean Cardiology Federation, the Asean Cultural Fund and the Asean Constructors Federation.

Some command attention: Seasee is the Southeast Asia Association on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering.

Others are cumbersome: JAWFCS is the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Shipping; and BAAIJV stands for Basic Agreement on Asean Industrial Joint Ventures.

Some are to the point: BOP for the Board of Planners; and MOP for the Minister of Tariff Preference.

Many seem inscrutable: SEANWFZ for Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone; and WGNCR for Working Group on Non-Conventional Energy Research Project.

A few suggest compositely: ELWPF stands for High Level Working Party.

Waiting for heaven is purgatory

Jessica Berry meets a family of devout Christians who moved from Michigan to Jericho in search of the hard life

EDAIR, her husband and seven children are wearing sackcloth and living in a small brick hut in Jericho: they waved goodbye to modern civilisation 30 months ago to follow the Scriptures.

Their Palestinian hosts are bewildered. "Crazies," said one, raising his finger to his head. The feeling is mutual.

To Edair, nothing could be more natural than her new life. This world is a terrible place to live in, she said, full of crime, wars and materialism. Far better, she thought, to up sticks and leave Michigan for the Promised Land to prepare for the next life.

"We had to choose a citizenship in this world or the next, and we felt accountable to our Maker not to enjoy ourselves but to prepare for the next life."

Edair and her husband Shomer — he used to be

"We have destroyed all our wedding pictures and our passports. We thought we'd be able to use our passports to write in but we realised they were covered in images."

Their small brick barn is all but crumbling, but it provides shade.

It has three rooms and a courtyard, which, if they are not eating in it, they are cleaning with buckets of water. There is one bed, but look after each other, under their mother's no-nonsense rules.

When asked to do something the reply must be: "Sure, I'd be glad to." And whiny voices, adds Edair, do not go unheeded.

Mathis, aged 11 — Matthew his former life — will be punished if he continues to grumble, she said.

Any child looking for an easy life should avoid this one. Life is not to be enjoyed, they are constantly reminded.

This, said Edair, putting her now well-fed baby in an iron cradle, "is the school of life. We teach the kids character traits: impeccable honesty, etiquette, manners and carefulness in their work."

But their quest for the path of light has been slow, and at one stage seemed to be over before it had even begun. Israel wanted to deport them. But Palestinian-controlled Jericho offered to put them up.

Free at last, they now have a long wait: until the next life or the second coming — whichever arrives first.

News in brief

India's budget 'for poor'
India's coalition government presented its first budget yesterday to the disappointment of those looking for a more aggressive free-market approach.

Shares on the Bombay stock exchange tumbled as the measures, described by the prime minister, H. D. Deve Gowda, as being "for the poor and the poorest of the poor", were announced. — Reuters.

Polls go-ahead
Gambia's military leader, Captain Yahya Jammeh, said yesterday that presidential elections would go ahead on September 11 despite warnings from the election committee that there is not enough time for organisation.

Capt Jammeh said a ban on political parties would be lifted after an August referendum on the new constitution but that any political aspirant trying to cause trouble "will be executed and buried six feet deep". — Reuters.

Vodka-free zones
Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, decreed yesterday that spirits can no longer be sold near schools, child-care centres, health clinics or churches in the Russian capital, which has a problem with drunks. Areas around railway stations, airports and military facilities are also off-limits for spirits sales. — AP.

Handy advice
Australian crocodile handlers have been told by a Queensland government publication, rather sensibly, not to "place any part of one's body in the mouth of a crocodile". Work on the guide began after a fatality on a crocodile farm in 1994. — AP.

Bus ambushed
An armed group, thought to be Islamic militants, stopped a bus at a fake police checkpoint on Sunday and killed 12 passengers near the Algerian town of Keddara, about 30 miles south of Algiers, witnesses said. All the dead were employees of a state-owned truck manufacturer. — AP.

Poisoning spreads
More than 8,200 people have now fallen ill in an outbreak of food poisoning in Japan being blamed on a virulent strain of the E. Coli bacteria. The western city of Sakai has been worst hit. — AP.

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Burundi
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Robbery turns

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Handwritten Arabic text: هبة من الامارات

Burundi herds Rwandans off to face uncertainties of home

Hutu refugees are 'choosing' the lesser of two evils, writes Chris McGreal in Butare

THEOGENE BIGENDO weighed the odds and decided to do what he has done for the past two years: stick with the crowd. So yesterday he lifted his three small children on to the back of a lorry, hauled himself in and desperately hoped he was making the right choice in going back to Rwanda for the first time in two years. "We left Rwanda because of the war. Anybody could be killed. People were dying everywhere. It was not safe to go back even after the war. People told us the killing was still going on. But now the army tells us we must go and I think if we stay we will be killed here in Burundi. Maybe it is more dangerous here than there," Mr Bigendo said. Last Thursday, Burundian soldiers surrounded thousands of Rwandan Hutus packing Kibazi refugee camp



in a container stamped "transit cargo". From the back stared children who have no memory of life anywhere other than in the refugee camps. Perhaps that is just as well: their parents' memories are what have kept them away for so long. Mr Bigendo and his children were dumped at the transit camp on the edge of Butare city, a 40-minute drive from the border. The children huddled around their

father as soldiers made a cursory search of their meagre belongings before the family joined the snaking lines to register for transport home, and collect some food. The Burundian army says it gave the refugees a gentle push, and by the standards of some forced repatriations it was restrained. The army wrecked a few shelters, tearing off the ubiquitous blue plastic sheeting given to every refugee. But no one spoke of violence. Theoretically, any refugee is free to refuse to return to Rwanda. But foreign aid officials have been kept away from the repatriation on the Burundi side of the border so the only people to whom the refugees can make such a request are the soldiers herding them on to lorries. So far no one is known to have asserted his right to remain. Mr Bigendo, like most other refugees, realises that what security he had was in numbers and that Burundi is not a good place to be a lone Hutu. The largely Tutsi army says it is in "hot pursuit" of Hutu rebels after the weekend mas-

sacre of Tutsi children, women and men in Burundi's central Gitega area. Although the military said there will be no reprisals, it is as notorious as the rebels for retribution against civilians, and Hutu refugees are an easy target. Burundi's government has declared a week of mourning for the murdered Tutsis, heightening tensions. Mr Bigendo said he is keen to go home to his commune, Rubororo. But he has no idea what he will find when he gets there. He does not know if someone has moved into his house. He does not know how his neighbours will greet him. Suspicion is cast on anyone who remained a refugee for so long. Did they participate in the genocide? If they are not guilty of anything, why did they stay away? "No one can accuse me of anything. I did nothing wrong during the war. I only stayed away because everyone said it was dangerous in Rwanda. They told me Hutus who went home were being killed. I do not know if it is true," he said.



A victim of a weekend massacre at Bugendana camp in Burundi's Gitega area. The army says Hutu rebels killed more than 300 displaced Tutsis, mostly women and children

News in brief

Sri Lanka forces try to recapture base

GOVERNMENT reinforcements were yesterday fighting their way towards a large Sri Lankan army base that Tamil rebels claim to have captured after wiping out a 1,300-strong garrison. Warships were ferrying hundreds of infantrymen to join commandos flown in earlier by helicopter to lift the siege on the Mullakivura camp, the deputy defence minister, Anura Kumara Ratwatte, said yesterday. The battle was one of the deadliest in the 13-year civil war. — AP, Colombo.

Israel's army 'in the dark'

THE MILITARY analyst of a leading Israeli newspaper said yesterday that the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was withholding key military and political information from the army. Ze'ev Schiff claimed in the newspaper Ha'aretz that senior security officials knew nothing about Mr Netanyahu's plans for Hebron and said a decision to ease a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was not co-ordinated with them. "Cards are being held close to the chest, hidden even from the army," he said. — Reuters, Jerusalem.

Priest repents on Holocaust

ABBE PIERRE, the French priest who was sharply criticised for supporting a revisionist text on the Holocaust, retracted yesterday and apologised for the offence he had caused. The 83-year-old priest was rebuked last month by Church authorities after he praised a book which questioned the number of Jews killed by the Nazis and which accused Israel of exploiting the Holocaust for political ends. — AP, Paris.

US offers exit to Saudi staff

THE state department said yesterday that all United States government employees based in Saudi Arabia and their families could return home at government expense if they wished to do so for security reasons, a spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, had approved the plan, but added: "The US government is confident in the stability of Saudi Arabia and in its commitment to provide security for all Americans in the kingdom." — Reuters, Washington.

Teenage venturer

A JAPANESE teenager set sail in a 30ft yacht yesterday to try to become the youngest person to make a solo crossing of the Pacific. "I think I may get lonely but I think I can make it," Subaru Takahashi, aged 14 (left), told the Mainichi Shinbun newspaper. "I really look forward to getting there." His yacht Advantage is carrying water and food for two months and satellite and radio equipment to fix its position, Kyodo News said. Subaru, from Niigata prefecture, hopes to complete the 6,000-mile journey to San Francisco in 50 to 60 days. He made a 19-mile solo crossing of the Sado Strait by canoe at the age of nine, took up yachting at 10, and has had 500 hours of intensive training for his voyage. — AP, Tokyo.

Robbery turns sour

AMUGGING suspect was stunned when he learned who was charged with robbing — the 94-year-old mother of Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, the reputed boss of the country's most powerful crime family. New York Police Lieutenant Robert McKenna said Willie King had a "resigned look on his face, sort of saying, 'How could I be so stupid?'" Police said Yolanda Gigante was attacked on Sunday as she walked near her home with her other son, the Rev Louis Gigante, a Roman Catholic priest. The attacker took her purse. Mr King, aged 37, was arrested nearby. Vincent Gigante has murder and racketeering charges pending. — Reuters, New York.

My struggling son was dragged from our house by policemen, handcuffed and virtually naked, and locked into a waiting ambulance. Living with schizophrenia.

G2 page 12

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The party at Number 10

Lord Nolan must examine all their funding

PARLIAMENT rises for the summer this week, so today is the last time that John Major will answer questions in the Commons until October 15. Between now and then, all political parties will be pushing their pre-election fundraising activities into top gear. It is therefore more than usually in the public interest that the Prime Minister is pressed today — with the support of other party leaders — to refer the issues raised by the Observer's weekend story about the Premier Club to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The Premier Club is an exclusive Conservative Party fundraising organisation. Its brochure says that, for a minimum fee of £10,000, members can receive a range of benefits, including dinners and lunches at Westminster, special hospitality at party conferences, attendance at Premier Club receptions, and priority reservation at party events. According to the Observer, "founder members" can also attend two dinners a year with the Prime Minister on payment of £100,000, a sum which the Tory Party disputes. The paper alleges that the club has advised would-be members how to ensure that their donations, which all go to party funds, are not disclosed as political but as "entertainment" (sic).

The Conservative Party has responded to the allegations, not by denying them in substance, but by alleging that the Labour Party does something "all but identical" in the shape of its 1,000 Club. To the fair-minded outsider, there is evidently some truth in the counter-allegation made by Brian Mahoney yesterday, since the 1,000 Club provides entry to dinners and receptions with senior party figures at Westminster during the year, as well as at party conferences. In both cases, those rich enough to do so are rewarded with elite access to the party hierarchy, a situation which, unregulated, could

amount to the buying and selling of influence and honours. The main difference appears to be one of scale — Labour's club costs £1,000, while the Conservatives' club costs a minimum of 10 times that amount, and allegedly a hundred times more.

But there is another difference, which the Conservatives cannot so lightly dismiss as they do. The Conservatives are the governing party, and their leaders are therefore government ministers. As such, they command and control an immense range of influence and rewards that are simply not open to the opposition parties, including government contracts, legislative changes and the award of honours.

If that is true of ministers in general, then it is true on an exponentially higher level of the Prime Minister. MPs have recently awarded the PM a large salary increase on the basis of a report which concluded that his job is "bigger and more complex than any other in the UK economy". To which should be added "and more powerful", especially given the centralised nature of the British state and the powers of patronage available to the occupant of Number 10. It is disingenuous nonsense to pretend that the access to the Prime Minister which the Premier Club allows is not qualitatively more important than every other aspect of the political donation network.

Every part of this story, though, raises highly sensitive questions about these networks. The questions apply in some measure to the opposition parties as well as to the Government, but they take on unequalled importance in the government party's case. Lord Nolan has not yet been asked to examine party funding, but it is vital that he should be. As the pre-election fundraising season intensifies, the need for consistent, transparent and better rules is compelling. Parliament should act today.

Strike early for privatisation

Postal workers may soon fall into the Government's trap

TO MOST people outside the industry, the series of one-day postal strikes should never have been allowed to happen. Here is a successful publicly-owned corporation with a proud productivity record, making good profits, which is seeking to achieve what the union has been asking for years — an end to the six-day week. But this doesn't justify the cack-handed way the Government is planning to suspend the PO's monopoly of delivery (of letters under £1) for a month from this Friday and for three months if more strikes are announced. Announcing this yesterday Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, had the nerve to say that "the resolution of this dispute is a matter for the Post Office and the union". Of course it is, and that is why the threat of lifting the PO's monopoly is a totally unwarranted intervention, which can only inflame the situation. Whatever people think about the convoluted nature of the strike, it is being conducted wholly within standards laid down by this government as part of its trade union legislation. It doesn't even cause the disruption the Government implies. The strikes have been for one day at a time, for which it is easy to plan in advance. At worst, we wait a day extra for letters. And the postal industry is a rarity in that even after a one-day strike they still work a five-day week.

The PO wants to trade the six-day week for a shorter five-day week in exchange for productivity improvements based on "team-working", imply-

ing greater flexibility and the end of job demarcations. These are not unreasonable requests but many union members fear that team-working — each with its own leader — will dilute union power and lead (though the PO has denied it) to more part-time working and an end to second deliveries. These are major changes to prepare the PO for the next century when the information revolution may well erode the habit of letter-writing, which has been given an unexpected boost by the success of junk mail. The Communication Workers' Union is hardly a militant organisation. The fact that members voted more than two to one in favour of striking on a 75 per cent turnout is a fair reflection of the strength of feeling. But union leaders know that even if the PO hasn't got a secret agenda, the Government has a very unsecret one: to privatise the PO. The only reason the PO hasn't been privatised so far is that public opinion has been against it. Most people are delighted that the PO has managed itself to improve its productivity and profitability. But public opinion is a fragile flower and employees and management shouldn't take it for granted. The dispute is now with Acas, which is where it ought to be. The instinctive reaction of unions to crude threats like that posed by Mr Lang might be to dig their heels in deeper. They must resist the temptation because it would provide a heaven-sent opportunity for the Government to secure the only privatisation that has so far eluded them.

Saved by hereditary rites

The Lords vote on the Asylum Bill will hasten its oblivion

OVER 100 years on, Walter Bagehot's constitutional comments still ring true: the cure for admiring the House of Lords is to go and look at it. Once more, an initial defiance of the Commons has ended in ignominious retreat. On an issue of fundamental principle — the right to seek political asylum — the peers gave way yesterday to the Government's cynical Asylum and Immigration Bill. Remember, this was the bill launched at last year's Conservative Party Conference with a Greek chorus: a Tory research director declaring his satisfaction with how well immigration played in the 1992 and 1994 elections and a Tory chairman declaring that this session's legislative package was designed to "smoke out" Labour. Hence, just two years after squeezing asylum procedures as tight as seemed possible, ministers produced yet another bill plus another wheeze: withdrawing asylum seekers' rights to

benefits unless they apply for refugee status at the port.

The best description of this regulation — introduced in February ahead of the bill — was provided in the Court of Appeal in a judgment in June: a system which "no civilised nation can tolerate". Undeterred, ministers ruthlessly introduced rushed emergency amendments to the Asylum Bill reinstating the very regulation which the Appeal Court ruled unlawful. To their credit, the upper chamber initially said hold on: at least grant the asylum-seekers three days' grace to apply for refugee status. But, overturned by the Commons, the Lords meekly complied yesterday. There were spirited opponents but the hereditary vote saved the day. Ironically, if they had wanted to save their birthright, rebellion might just have extended their privilege. As it is, Labour has further cause for withdrawing the vote from hereditary peers.

JOHN DUNCAN writes (Sports, July 19) that the Olympic torch was introduced by the Nazis in 1936 because Hitler wanted to draw an association between the Nazi regime and ancient Greece. In fact, the flame was first lit at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam and can still be seen at the Olympic Stadium. Guy Thornton, Postbox 6606, 1005 EP Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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Letters to the Editor

Georgia on our mind

THE gross commercialism of the Olympic Games has been rightly criticised. But I wonder whether some good could come of it? At the opening ceremony, the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Samaranch, announced that the Olympic movement would be giving aid to rebuild sports facilities in Sarajevo, a former host city. Given that, as Samaranch said, sport is about "peace, education and health", and the IOC is so keen to present the games as a symbol of international friendship, could not such announcements become a regular feature of Olympic opening ceremonies?

The multinational corporations which make so much money from the games should be asked to give a proportion of their sponsorship as aid to those countries where peace, education and health (and necessarily sport) are in short supply. How uplifting it would be if we could hear \$10 million pledged to health facilities in Rwanda, to schools in Bangladesh, to reconciliation initiatives in Northern Ireland.

We might even get a sort of benevolent competition in which every four years the sponsoring corporations outbid the previous games in the size of their donations. Michael Jacobs, 12 Chaddford Lane, Barnstable EX31 1RE.

YOU report (July 20) that "an audience of 80,000 in the stadium was joined by an estimated 3.5 billion television viewers around the world." Why do journalists repeat these claims as if they were true when, after a moment's reflection, they would realise how extremely unlikely it would be for the majority of the world's population ever to be watching the same thing? Quite apart from the extreme unlikelihood that the majority would ever want to watch the same thing, and the fact that the vast proportion of the world's population has no access to TV, a good half of the world was asleep when the games began. Most of the rest will have been going to work or to school, or doing whatever they normally do on a Saturday morning. So we will never know how many watched.

If you divided the figures given by the organisers of globally-televised events by between 50 and 100, you might be closer to the reality. The alternative is to say simply "a lot of people watched". Graham Mytton, Head of Audience Research, BBC World Service, Sandrock, Horsham Road, Dorking.

JOHN DUNCAN writes (Sports, July 19) that the Olympic torch was introduced by the Nazis in 1936 because Hitler wanted to draw an association between the Nazi regime and ancient Greece. In fact, the flame was first lit at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam and can still be seen at the Olympic Stadium. Guy Thornton, Postbox 6606, 1005 EP Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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The word from the world

IT IS with deep anxiety that I have followed the reorganisation of the BBC World Service having myself expected what it feels like to be cut off from the rest of the world. I was visiting Tripoli during the coup led by Colonel Gaddafi. Gaddafi's troops established a 24-hour curfew and we were unable to leave the country, or even walk outside, for two weeks.

All that was played on the Libyan airwaves was incessant martial music. It was only the World Service that enabled us to discover what was going on. It was incredible how much it meant to us to know that our plight was recognised beyond our four walls. When I heard of the plight of the World Service, I wrote to Malcolm Rifkind. He wrote back to say: "My main aim is to ensure that the World Service will be able to fulfil its targets and objectives, and that there will be a clear separation between the grant-aid funded World Service and the BBC's other activities". Let us hope that the Foreign Secretary stands by his word when he calls in BBC chiefs to explain their proposals. (Dr) Nancy J Lane, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3EJ.

AS one who travels thousands of miles each year attempting to raise orders overseas, I feel I must add my voice to those questioning the wisdom of the proposed changes. Everywhere I go, both on behalf of my employer and in my capacity as a vice-president of the British Exporters Association, visiting some 20 countries each year, the World Service is held in the highest esteem. The changes proposed will change its very nature. What I and members of the British Exporters Association require for the future is a World Service whose quality and breadth of output is maintained at the present very high standard. Herbert Edmonds, Vice-President, British Exporters Association, 16 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9EL.

LAST year, I was responsible for running a project for Russian lawyers in Russia, involving lecturers from the UK. It could have made an interesting story about the developing former Soviet Union, the interaction of two very different sorts of lawyer, and the efforts to bridge and learn new skills. Domestic news showed no interest: the World Service managed two good pieces, which went out in Russia and the UK and attracted considerable interest. Under Birt's scheme, such broadcasts would not be possible. Harriet Smith, 7 Glendon Road, London W14 9BH.

THE World Service has played a key training role in MED MEDIA, the post-Gulf war European Union media programme I have co-ordinated since its inception in 1982. Through media partnerships between the 15 EU countries and the 12 mainly Arab Mediterranean neighbours, MED MEDIA aims to challenge popular misunderstandings and temper old bitterness throughout the region. The World Service's professional ethics became a sort of hallmark for MED MEDIA, bringing Syrians into contact with objective reporting at Bush House, giving Arab and Israeli broadcasters the opportunity to work together, and helping to protect the burgeoning Pal-

estinian radio from suffering the consequences of Arafat's slide towards dictatorship. If the World Service loses its independence, such trust will disappear and a delicate link at a dangerous time will die, possibly forever. Trevor Mostyn, 39b Elgin Crescent, London W11 2JD.

THE importance of the BBC World Service for those campaigning for democracy in Africa was illustrated to me when I visited Malawi as a member of an international trade union delegation in 1992. In the days of the repressive Banda dictatorship, the Delegation members from Canada, Norway and the US were introduced, without comment, to the prime minister, John Tembo, probably the most feared person in Malawi. When I was introduced, Tembo launched a tirade of abuse about the World Service which, he said, was endangering the stability of Malawi by spreading propaganda about the Banda regime. His outburst demonstrated the important part played by the World Service in the fight for democracy in the absence of a free press. Annie Watson, 11 Belford Walk, London N7 0SN.

IN 1988, while working for Help the Aged, I spent several weeks in Latin America. After completing an assignment in Peru, I spent a few days visiting the surrounding Inca sites with a young local guide. His English was almost flawless. I asked him where he had studied our language. "The BBC World Service", he replied. "I listen every day." Diane Trembath, 90 Talbot Road, London W3 5LF.

IN 1992, Britain helped to scupper European Union proposals for a global carbon/energy tax prior to the Rio Summit. In view of the scientific evidence now before us, some form of energy tax, with the cash channelled into domestic and industrial energy conservation, must again be a serious option. Will our Europhilic, born-again Secretary of State for the Environment now recant his Government's previous positions of roads, taxation and start putting his weight behind serious measures, or are we to expect yet more smug pontification about Britain's voluntary approach being best? Andrew MacKinlay (MP), House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR leader (Cancer in Cambridge, July 22) attacks Cambridge academics for voting two to one in favour of accepting a £1.5 million donation from BAT Industries. You quote a professor as asking: "If Cambridge would not accept money from Saddam Hussein for an Arabic Choir, why take the tobacco industry's blood money?" Tell me, how much "blood money" did the Guardian receive for running a full-page advertisement for Marlboro cigarettes on page 7 of the same edition? David Bazley, 116 Hamilton Road, Reading RG1 5RE.

MAY I suggest a new contest for the Guardian: Whinger of the Year. And may I put forward Alastair Campbell as the first nomination? Whingsing is no way to run a press office. Peter Heap, 40 Crookston Road, London SE9 1YB.

HOW ironic that Hugo Young and your leader (July 18) should both be thinking politicians the morning after Paddy Ashdown had set out radical ideas on employment and our economy. You are quite right. British politics suffers from a shortage of good ideas and imagination. Labour's proposals are often unconvincing, or too vague: the Conservatives are becoming a thought-free zone — defensive, reactive, short-term. Ashdown's argument was realistic and hopeful: there is a harsh, competitive market out there to be conquered, yet there are job-creat-

Preaching on pollution

SHOULDN'T it really be two cheers for John Gummer and his rhetoric at last week's international conference on global climate change (Tough choices faced on gas emissions, July 20)? Who would have thought that in speaking on behalf of our wet and windy isle, global warming would have created such a wonderful opportunity for a British environment minister to preach the virtues of environmentalism to the likes of the US and Australia.

We should not forget that one of the main reasons why this country is in such a comfortable position with respect to meeting our own carbon dioxide targets is our active policy of de-industrialisation during the 1980s. Any country which manages to close down a steel industry and a coal industry within a decade might reasonably be expected to appear virtuous on carbon dioxide emissions. What is really tough is standing up to the oil, roads and motor-car lobbies, which Bill Clinton and Al Gore are now going to have to do, but which the British Government has been singularly reluctant to countenance in recent years. Even tougher will be the replacement of Britain's dead-end nuclear industry with renewable alternatives. Not much recent news from Mr Gummer on this front, but a commitment to providing 20 per cent of the country's energy needs by the year 2020 might be a good starting point.

Most difficult of all will be the task of persuading countries like Malaysia and China, whose future industrial expansion will be built on massively-increasing consumption of fossil fuels, to embrace the urgency of improving their own carbon/energy efficiencies. In 1992, Britain helped to scupper European Union proposals for a global carbon/energy tax prior to the Rio Summit. In view of the scientific evidence now before us, some form of energy tax, with the cash channelled into domestic and industrial energy conservation, must again be a serious option. Will our Europhilic, born-again Secretary of State for the Environment now recant his Government's previous positions of roads, taxation and start putting his weight behind serious measures, or are we to expect yet more smug pontification about Britain's voluntary approach being best? Andrew MacKinlay (MP), House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Cough up

YOUR leader (Cancer in Cambridge, July 22) attacks Cambridge academics for voting two to one in favour of accepting a £1.5 million donation from BAT Industries. You quote a professor as asking: "If Cambridge would not accept money from Saddam Hussein for an Arabic Choir, why take the tobacco industry's blood money?" Tell me, how much "blood money" did the Guardian receive for running a full-page advertisement for Marlboro cigarettes on page 7 of the same edition? David Bazley, 116 Hamilton Road, Reading RG1 5RE.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: Since the third week in June, by far the most numerous visitor to the garden light trap has been the heart and dart, one of the noctuid family of moths that rest with wings held close against the body. After a warm and muggy night, the count has frequently exceeded 200, with the insects crowded together in layers, filling the deep indentations of the egg cartons used to provide shelter inside the trap from the bright mercury vapour lamp. This very common moth has been given its name for the two most prominent markings on its forewings, the ground colour of which can vary from pale brown through shades of grey and red-brown to sooty-grey. Although the larvae feed on a wide variety of herbaceous plants, the adult moth has a particular liking for buddleia and red valerian, both of which are well-established in my garden. Amongst the rather drab looking heart and

start moths, some much brighter species have been attracted in as well. The plusia group are night-flyers, having conspicuous metallic markings on the front wings, usually gold in colour, which are used to reflect light. Both gold spot and gold spangle have come to the light in the past week together with the beautiful burnished brass, so-called for its shiny brass-like wings. It also has a most spectacular crest of orange hairs on the thorax. Away from the garden and the moths, signs of the slowly changing season are evident with the appearance in the birch woods around the moss and the common, of some of the late summer fungi — grisetite, tawney members of the amanita group which includes the familiar fly agaric, with bright red cap and pure white stem, that should also be fruiting in the next few weeks.

J M THOMPSON



An on-the-record challenge

ALASTAIR Campbell (Letters, July 22) protests too much about the use of an anonymous quote in a recent article on the Labour Party. Recent years have seen an increased trend by Labour media operation to shape party opinion or deal with dissent by using such quotes through compliant or lazy journalists. Mr Campbell laid a challenge to the Guardian to name the source of the quote about which he was complaining. In turn, I challenge him to stop his office using anonymous quotes to attack colleagues or undermine open

Getting in a Paddy over policy

HOW ironic that Hugo Young and your leader (July 18) should both be thinking politicians the morning after Paddy Ashdown had set out radical ideas on employment and our economy. You are quite right. British politics suffers from a shortage of good ideas and imagination. Labour's proposals are often unconvincing, or too vague: the Conservatives are becoming a thought-free zone — defensive, reactive, short-term. Ashdown's argument was realistic and hopeful: there is a harsh, competitive market out there to be conquered, yet there are job-creat-

J M THOMPSON

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Diary Dan Atkinson

HEAT Resignation may not have been quite what it seemed, we understand. Officially, the Paymaster General quit over the single currency, but a supporting factor is thought to have been his distaste for having to give away the principle that a Britisher's home is his castle.

Back in April David Heathcoat-Amory was reportedly faced with having to support in June a Euro-directive giving Brussels fraud inspectors the right to search without warrant any premises anywhere in the Union. DEA was clearly unhappy with the regulation, but the beef was intervened and the search-law was vetoed. But it is due to return from the grave and be implemented in January.

Perhaps the thought of justifying this particular diatribe pushed the Paymaster over the edge.

PAYMASTER General was once one of those funny old jobs a Catholic wasn't supposed to hold; there are still a few, like King.

At present, Britain's five million-odd RCs are supposedly aged at the prospect of the next PM (maybe) Tony Blair, coming over to Rome, but those in the know find far more gripping the mechanics of Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles' rumored application to annul his marriage to Camilla.

The whirring tape recorders of the Westminster Diocesan Marriage Tribunal in Marylebone Road soak up an average four hours of evidence per applicant; fortunately for the Brigadier (and the Prince of Wales), the interviewers are discreet in the extreme.

The applicant is expected also to call witnesses to support his case; their evidence will account for maybe four more CEOs, Camilla, when approached from the side of the story, could refuse to cooperate, which may not necessarily harm the Brigadier's chances. Or she could exercise her right to call witnesses (who will they include, we wonder?).

The nature of the question seems under seal, but any RC canon lawyer will tell you Camilla would do Andrew no favours were she to over-egg it on what a good bloke he was: the tribunal judges the validity of the marriage, not the parties' conduct.

Finally, the papers will go before a "court", where a priest-lawyer will be appointed as "defender of the bond", arguing against granting the annulment. APB should get a verdict by mid-1998.

WE thought we had him, we really did. Hardly had Patrick Malahide popped up in his new guise of F G Duggan, author of the now-running BBC1 terrorist-thriller The Writing On The Wall, than we thumbed through the Day Of The Jackal (1971) for the cover-name of the anonymous would-be De Gaulle killer. There it was — Duggan. Ah, the mischief!

One call to a Mr M associate blew that one away; Duggan is not the pseudonym, but the real name. Dugan and double-dugan, but we won't be evicted from Duggan-land that easily.

Malahide may not have been playing a jacked pascal, but Douglas Ford certainly has been. Our ex-Foreign Secretary marked the 25th anniversary of Frederick Forsyth's bestseller some days ago with an article praising its style and detail. "The join between fact and fiction is invisible," declared Dee-Dee. Too right.

The rumour that Jackal is not fiction at all, but could be a true story gleaned by Forsyth when a Reuters man in France in the early sixties, has never died away. And who, as private secretary to the FO's permanent under secretary of state, between 1960 and 1963, would know, if any one does, whether there really has been an off-the-general plot at that time, involving an Englishman? That's right.

TECHNOLOGICAL breakthrough from South West Trains, who have been plagued by ventilation problems; £100,000 is to be invested "to install windows which can be opened if the air conditioning should fail."

YOU HAVE TO STOP BILL GATES TAKING OVER THE WORLD.

Weak link in a novel chain of events

Commentary Hugo Young

WHAT happened to the Government yesterday was quite serious. With ineffable clumsiness, a minister resigned in circumstances he did not intend.

But a far more serious situation beckons, which Tony Blair has the power to bring about. If he were to announce that the Labour Party intends to fight the election with a pledge that sterling would not enter the single European currency during the lifetime of the next parliament, it is hard to see how the Tories could survive.

It would be a lethal punch. The promise would hardly be out of his mouth before the Government began to fall apart. Were Blair to get in first, the eruption on the Euro-sceptic wing would become impossible to contain.

Redwood and his new friend Mr Heathcoat-Amory would demand a similar pledge from Mr Major. He probably couldn't fail to give it. Yet if he gave it, he would do so knowing that he had

precipitated the resignation of Kenneth Clarke, to name but one, without gaining any significant new allies.

For his change of line would be seen as having come not at the suggestion of his own party, itself an undesirable thing to do, but as a surrender to the Opposition. Having earlier caved in to Europe, he would now be caving in to Labour. It would be the ultimate no-win position for the Prime Minister.

Irresistible though such a temptation looks, I do not think Mr Blair will succumb to it. One cannot be absolutely sure. In these feverish days of gesture politics, when signalling and jockeying are always in danger of diverting attention from the substance, it is not possible to secure a categorical, in-all-circumstances denial from the Labour camp.

But that's part of the positioning game as well. The reasons why Blair won't want to make a not-now pledge, seductive though it is, are the same reasons why Mr Heathcoat-Amory, who had hoped to retire in obscurity and only then launch a Euro-sceptic pamphlet on the world, looks like a political idiot.

The not-now pledge is open to three powerful objections. First, it is not necessary, even if you're strongly biased against Britain joining the single currency. The opt-out Major secured at Maastricht

protects the British position, without immediate cost to the country. It doesn't absolve London from making a choice, but it keeps the timing of the choice debatable.

Second, making the sceptic/pledge choice now would be a massively significant exercise in self-exclusion from the process that will affect sterling more than any other sceptic currency. The most important "out" would be surrendering all influence over the future behaviour of the "ins".

The third and greatest case against the proposition is that it would be a fraud. When these politicians say they want a pledge only for the life of the next parliament, they are being honest neither with the facts nor with their intentions. They predicate a second-guess they do not mean to offer. Their true desire is for a declaration in perpetuity, which reflects their atavistic belief that Britain must never join.

While the opt-out gives a genuine, if difficult, opportunity for a second guess, the manifesto commitment many Tories now want does not.

That so many of them do now want it is remarkable. This is a triumph of ideology over pragmatism which Margaret Thatcher, when Prime Minister, never contemplated on such a scale. It says that prudence should be abandoned, and the future mortgaged to a single unal-

terable point of view regardless of circumstances. This is not even based on a rational account of public opinion. It presumes the availability of some vast electoral dividend from coming out clearly against this European adventure. There's little evidence to support such a dramatic analysis, as against the overwhelming evidence that party division, which John Redwood (intentionally) and the pathetic Heathcoat-Amory (cack-handedly) are stirring up, may wreck the residual chance to avert landslide defeat. But this kind of realism is no longer of interest to the fanatics.

So much for the substance. What is now being played out is a tactical game of great explosive potential. It revolves around Mr Blair as much as Mr Major, and it's hard to know who is writing the rules.

Heathcoat-Amory, who hoped to retire then launch a Euro-sceptic pamphlet, looks like a political idiot.

The rumours of a Blair pledge could have started with Labour people who seriously want him to give it because they dislike the single currency as much as many Tories do or with Labour news-managers who want no such thing, but see the attractions of goading the Cabinet towards a pledge they know Kenneth Clarke will never wear or with the Tory press, inventing quotes from shadow spokespersons, which have the same effect. We've already seen the capacity of the Tory Right to build up fears of a Labour flanking

movement. The same stories of pre-emption foreshadowed the Cabinet decision, over Mr Clarke's near-dead body, to commit to the single-currency referendum.

The stakes are now much higher. After all, the decision on whether to apply for first-round entry into EMU will have to be taken within just six months of a Spring election. The time will be at hand when the jockeying has to stop. However, the difference between the parties is already, I think, apparent.

The Conservatives, in present mode, could never enter EMU in the first round. Too many MPs, behind the screen of the not-now pledge, have decided they're on principle opposed. Events might change that, but not before the experiment has begun. Keeping open the possibility is more a tactical device, to maximise continuing influence on the shape of EMU, than a statement of realistic possible intent. That makes it a principle quite big enough for Mr Clarke to die for, because the alternative option is the equivalent of saying "never".

The Labour position is, on the principle, not opposed. Mr Blair and Mr Brown have said that clearly and often. They will be in difficulty if Major changes tack and surrenders to the Redwood option; but not in more difficulty than Major himself, who will have lost his Chancellor and quite possibly Bezza as well.

Mr Blair, forsaking his opportunity to wreck the Government, is gambling on the readiness of his party to accept entry into EMU if the terms are right, and on the willingness of the country not to be stampeded into Euro-phobia by a party crazy enough to take John Redwood more seriously than Kenneth Clarke. This is an intelligent, national-interest position. Let's hope he holds to it.

Leaving our Waterloo

Voters are losing faith in the old European ideals. Donald Sassoon argues for a rewritten constitution to form the basis of a new social democratic settlement.

AFTER Waterloo Wellington is supposed to have remarked: "We are, we have been and, I hope, we shall always be detested in France." Substitutes the Continent for France and you have the quintessence of the europhobic position. Meanwhile, the rest of the Conservative Party stands still, hoping that Europe will do the same. Yet, as in the past, Europe will move on to face the unprecedented challenge of unifying a continent, once devastated by cataclysmic "civil wars", later divided by the Cold War. Those on the left who do not wish to stand still have to consider how to develop social democratic policies.

A Europe in which social democracy thrives is one in which the fundamental rules and legal framework facilitates the development of a "social" market economy. Full employment can become, once again, an attainable goal, the welfare state can be more easily defended and where a significant percentage of the population is not excluded from material prosperity. This can only be the result of co-operation with Christian Democrats, Liberals with a social conscience, and those conservatives committed to social cohesion.

Economics has been for too long the key driving force of the Union: originally a Steel and Coal Community, then a Common Market, then a Single Market and perhaps a Monetary Union. Politics has too often taken second place. The last enlargement brought in relatively rich countries. Future entrants from eastern and central Europe are poorer than Greece and Portugal. A future expansion requires a drastic revision of the existing architecture of the EU. Enlargement has always taken place on the basis of the so-called acquis communautaire, the tenet that every new member must accept all that has been achieved so far: the Treaties, the legislation so far adopted, the case law of the Court of Justice, all resolutions and international agreements — 135,000 pages of official texts.

This is so obviously unrealistic that, in practice, the acquis has become more a general declaration of intent than an inflexible principle. Prospective members are asked to meet certain conditions before entry and are then allowed a whole paraphernalia of temporary derogations and transitional arrangements. The actual practice of the EU has been that of the so-called "variable geometry". The exceptions to the rule of a homogeneous community have been varied, as the numerous opt-outs testify.

Previous applicants had with a well-entrenched system of social protection and higher health, environmental protection and safety standards than the EU minimum. This cannot be said of the former communist bloc countries. The more formidable the adjustments imposed on new entrants, the greater the likelihood that a lasting disaffection will be created among significant segments of their electorates. The seeds for systematic anti-Europeanism, thus implanted, will blossom as national politicians will find it politically rewarding to blame the EU and the taxing conditions imposed by wealthier countries.

How can this disparate community be held together and enlarged? What should be its central rules? We know that it must be democratic and seen to be democratic, that its diversity must be protected, and that it must provide economic and political security. The European Union does not possess a charter or constitution which establishes the rules of its governance, its basic principles, the rights of



its citizens. In its place it has the acquis communautaire, the process of clarifying the acquis is an exercise in constitution-making. The object should be to codify the key political principles in the shape of a European Charter which must be accepted by all. This Charter should establish the purpose of the Union, its values, how it proposes to defend and enhance the cultural and political rights of the member-states, as well as the diverse ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic rights of minorities within the Union.

The Charter would include all the existing rights under the present acquis, the European Convention on Human Rights, a clear separation of powers between the EU and the nation-states (ie subsidiarity) and the decision-making

structure within the institutions of the Union. Finally, it should commit the Union to ensuring that all its citizens can participate fully in economic life.

New entrants would be expected to underwrite the Charter in toto, without pre-empting negotiations on hard economic issues. Because the Charter would establish fundamental rights, it would encourage their protection throughout the pre-entry period helping the new entrants to consolidate further their transition to democracy. Negotiations would still be required to determine the timetable for economic convergence. Europeans would acquire a visible stake in the Union, see their rights reinforced and perhaps now ones established. The Charter would counteract, perhaps even eliminate, a purely economic cost of the EU, the fear that existing social rights will be eroded and the anxiety that national cultural differences would be wiped away.

The Charter would provide the Labour Party with a positive campaigning theme on European issues enabling it to build bridges with the Liberals and further divide the Conservatives. It would enable Britain to be, finally, at the heart of Europe. It would resolve the debate on whether or not Britain would have a written Bill of Rights.

What is at stake is not the content of the Charter — to a large extent the question is to systematise the essential constitutional elements of the acquis communautaire. Drawing the Charter would be an opportunity to open up a Europe-wide debate on the issue of rights, social protection, and the separation of powers in the Union. Its drafting would involve not only the governments of the local states but also the national parliaments (or their representatives) and the European Parliament. It would be ratified by referendum in each member-state.

It would signal to the countries of eastern and central Europe that membership of the European Union entails the acceptance of the European model of social capitalism, not a destabilising shock therapy leading to a kind of unregulated capitalism which has never existed in Western Europe.

A Charter will contribute to the clarity which is so required if the EU is to appear to European citizens a less alien body. Though it would not eliminate the democratic deficit, it would go some way towards winning the support of European citizens by bringing to the fore a vision of an authentic community of peoples, not only a set of economic arrangements. It would re-establish social democracy at the heart of Europe.

Donald Sassoon teaches History at Queen Mary and Westfield College and is the author of Social Democracy At The Heart Of Europe (Penguin, £7.50, out today). He has also published One Hundred Years Of Socialism: The West European Left In The Twentieth Century.

The problem with arms and the men



Beatrix Campbell

THERE will be gun control in Australia. There won't be gun control in Britain. Passionate commitment to a firearms ban enabled the new Conservative coalition government, John Howard, a man in search of a persona, to metamorphose into a statesman. Here, however, Home Secretary Michael Howard's party has apparently come out as the gun party.

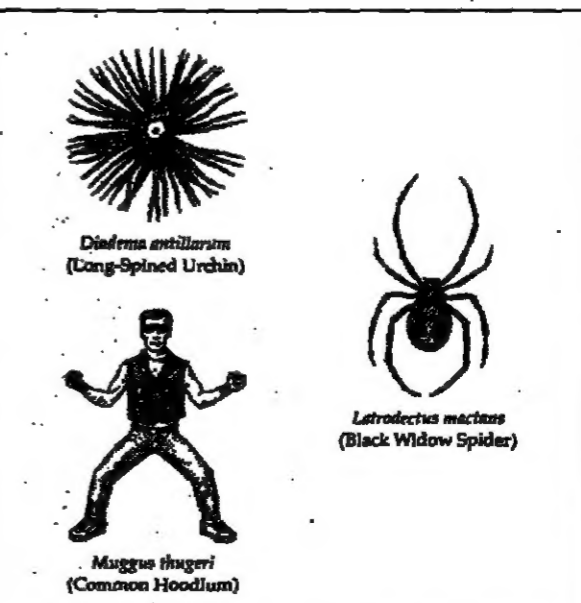
The Dunblane and Port Arthur massacres similarly ignited the collective imagination, and yet are starkly different in their political impact. One of the Dunblane parents asked us last week: Why is a man's right to own a gun more important than his child's life? He received his answer last week when the Commons Home Affairs select committee pre-empted the Cullen inquiry's findings by coming out against a ban on handguns.

In Australia, gun ownership is much higher than in Britain. It is scripted into the iconic bushman whose solitary, macho XXXX survivalism infuses white settlement. In Britain the arms trade is a significant export industry, but personal gun-ownership is associated with class and gender: gents and other blokes who kill for pleasure.

And yet in Australia a symbiotic alliance has emerged between the Government and the anti-gun movement which has spawned a national consensus. In Britain, by contrast, there is a mass movement but it does not enjoy overwhelming parliamentary endorsement. The campaigns began with women. After the Dunblane massacre, Scotland was grief-stricken and three women with little or no political experience launched the Snowdrop petition. "We called it Snowdrop because when the children were shot it was the only spring flower in bloom, they're small, delicate and simple."

The petition proposes a total ban on handguns — in the 1987 Hungerford massacre, 16 victims were killed by a pistol. Only 37 per cent of MPs responded. Only five Tories signed. But within ten weeks, more than 700,000 people had signed. Half of Scotland's local authorities supported it, so did four Scottish Nationalist MPs, 17 Labour and three Liberal Democrats. The Scottish School Boards Association mailed the petition to 1,200 schools and the National Union of Teachers has given Snowdrop its endorsement.

Politicians were always afraid of the shooters but Port Arthur gave them the opportunity to be brave in a country that is defining a new national identity. Dunblane gave Westminster the chance to pay its respects to Scotland, to children and to public safety. However, nothing, it seems, is more important than a man's right to his gun.



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Gerald McArthur

Detective stories

Leonard "Nipper" Reed asks: "What can you say about a lovely man like Gerry?" Reed arrested the Kray twins and as a junior officer, worked with Gerald McArthur on the investigation into the great train robbery of 1963.

brothers, Charles and Eddie, who controlled crime in south London in the early 1960s. By 1963, McArthur had risen to the rank of detective superintendent, and he was the first of a number of Metropolitan officers seconded to assist the Buckinghamshire Constabulary after the raid on the London-Glasgow Royal Mail train at Brigado Bridge near Aylesbury.

The criminals had halted the night mail train and systematically looted its contents. It was the largest robbery Britain had known, and immediately had caught the public imagination. McArthur quietly co-ordinated the investigative work at Aylesbury, which led to the discovery of the robbers' hideout at Leatherslade Farm.

His quiet work had helped in the discovery of the robbers' hideout at Leatherslade Farm

public imagination. McArthur quietly co-ordinated the investigative work at Aylesbury, which led to the discovery of the robbers' hideout at Leatherslade Farm.

McArthur, a tireless worker, who demanded and obtained the same effort from his subordinates, did not return to his home either for his wedding anniversary or for Christmas that year. There was then much jockeying for position among senior officers at the Yard and it is

doubtful whether he was extended the courtesy of being told that the arrests of the leaders, which led to the 30 year sentences, were to be made. Perhaps for this reason he was never given the public recognition which was his due. In 1964 he left the Met and took the appointment of assistant chief constable of Hertfordshire.

The great train robbery was the event which led to the formation of the regional crime squads. At last it had been realised that small county forces could not cope with a major crime which took place within their boundaries. McArthur, who had been in Hertfordshire for barely nine months, was seconded to be co-ordinator for No 5 regional crime squad.

The 1960s were a time of great embarrassment for the Metropolitan Police force, which itself underwent three major corruption investigations during the decade. This was the reason that the fraudster James Taggart, sought out not London detectives, but McArthur out in Hertfordshire, in order to complain about his treatment at the hands of the Richardson brothers, and their associates, the "torture gang", from Peckham, who had built up a vast empire which was partly based on fraudulent businesses.

By keeping the inquiry away from south London (where it was likely that there would be big leaks to suspects), McArthur was able to put together a forensic case which was helped by a fight in a Cotford club in March 1965, which resulted in the death of Richard Hart and led immediately to the arrest of Eddie Richardson and his



The great train robbery... Gerald McArthur on the platform during the aftermath

henchman, Frank Fraser. Fraser was acquitted of Hart's murder, but he and Eddie Richardson both got five years' imprisonment for the affair. More witnesses came forward and in July 1968, McArthur arrested the members of the gang. Charles Richardson received a 25-year sentence, his brother, Eddie, received 10 years, as did Fraser and another member, Roy Hall.

In 1969, it was decided that regional crime squad officers with the rank of temporary assistant chief constable should be re-ranked as detective chief superintendents;

this was an effective downgrade. Before this was implemented, McArthur, along with a number of other officers, left the force in 1968. He became security adviser to the Tobacco Advisory Council.

He finally retired in 1975 and spent a happy life with his wife Marion. He had met her while still at school; they had married in 1941. He had two daughters and five grand-children. He was a physically huge man and retained his love of sport throughout his life, playing table tennis for the police and, in his retirement, bowls. He also liked

good food, and he was a member of an informal club of ex-regional crime squad co-ordinators. They met at the RAF Club, Piccadilly every three months, where, as one member put it: "We put the world to rights, no one listens, and we go home happily."

McArthur was considered the policeman's policeman, recognised perhaps when he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1961. He also received an MBE.

James Morton
Gerald McArthur, detective, born May 28, 1916; died July 21, 1996

Rev Lawrence Jenco Hostage priest who forgave his captors

THE name of the Rev Lawrence Jenco, who has died, aged 61, in the Chicago suburb of Hillside, where he was a priest at the local Roman Catholic church, does not spring to mind when recalling the horrors of Lebanon's hostage crisis. And yet this gentle, bespectacled priest suffered in the 865 days he spent in captivity just as much as the better-known victims with whom he was kept — Terry Anderson, Tom Sutherland, David Jacobsen, and the Beirut CIA chief, William Buckley, who died in his presence.

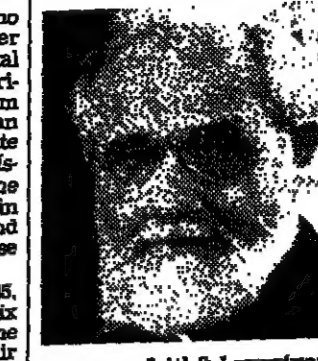
Of the 71 foreigners who were taken (and together remained hostages for a total of more than 45 years), American-born Jenco was victim number 10. He was not an obvious choice for the Shi'ite fundamentalists headed by Islamic Jihad. As director of the Catholic Relief Services in Beirut, it was his task to tend to the poor and most of those were Shi'ites.

But on January 8, 1985, while walking to his office, six Shi'ite gunmen bundled the 50-year-old priest into their car and drove him away to an ordeal he never expected to survive. For the first six months, he was held in solitary confinement, naked and chained by one leg to the wall of a tiny dingy room in the city's southern suburbs. At meal times, his captors would approach him from behind and cover his eyes with a filthy rag before leaving a small portion of bread or rice, and warm foul-tasting water.

His guards permitted only one visit a day to the health room, which provided jars to hold urine in between. Their cruel sense of humour included forcing him to balance the filled jar on his head until he fainted. Jenco began to be moved to other hideouts, the transport as frightening as the captivity. Bound from head to foot by tape and with only his nose left uncovered, he was tied to the wheel-well of a truck as his captors successfully sought to avoid detection. Once, on bumpy roads, his nose hit the bottom of the truck and began bleeding profusely. In his panic, blind, folded, unable to breathe, he was convinced he was going to drown in his own blood.

Terry Anderson, the former chief Middle-East correspondent for Associated Press who was captured two months later, became his close friend. They first encountered each other while Jenco was in a tiny closet in a room where Anderson was being held. Forbidden to speak, he peeked at

his fellow-American through a crack in the door. Only later, when they were moved to a slightly larger cell, did they get to know each other. In that same space was William Buckley, taken a year earlier and said by the US State Department to have died as the result of repeated torture. Jenco said it was possible that he and Anderson had been praying for Buckley as they listened, blindfolded, to "the obvious sounds of death". The guards dragged away his body and, alarmed by the death, im-



Jenco... faithful survivor

proved conditions for the others. Yet they were still only clad for most of the time in their underpants — Jenco said these were part of their three-piece hostage suits — along with blindfolds and chains. Jenco came from Joliet, Illinois, eventually going to Rome where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1968. Before being posted to Beirut in 1984, he had served in Yaman, India and Thailand.

Religion, he said, enabled him to survive. After being set free in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, with a seven-minute videotape which provided the first real news of his fellow captives, Jenco steadfastly refused to condemn his captors. He said he had built up a close rapport with the young Shi'ites and they called him Father.

In his book, *Bound to Forgive* he recalled the day in July, 1986, when he was finally released. "The guards said: 'Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do.' Jenco did forgive, but not forget. "I do not forget the pain, the loneliness, the ache, the terrible injustice. But I do not remember to inflict some future retribution."

Chris Drake
Lawrence Martin Jenco, priest, born November 27, 1934; died July 19, 1996

Clyde Wiegand

Master of the mysteries of antimatter

CLYDE WIEGAND, who has died aged 81, was one of the outstanding experimental physicists of the post-war era, whose work brought him very close to winning the 1969 Nobel Prize for physics.

His contribution was crucial. He had great gifts as an experimental scientist, often opening our eyes to new possibilities. His should have been the third name," said Chamberlain.

Wiegand was in at the beginning. With the confirmation of the existence of antiprotons, the era of huge particle accelerators and of experimental high energy physics came of age. Almost a

century ago, a strange possibility was suggested — that atoms whose characteristics were the exact opposite of normal atoms might exist. In Cambridge in the 1920s, Dirac's electron equations, reconciling quantum mechanics and special relativity, had two solutions — one which corresponded to the known electron and the other to an unknown equal but opposite particle.

This ambivalence was resolved in 1932 by the American physicist Carl Anderson, whose studies confirmed the existence of the positron — the antimatter equivalent to the electron. Wiegand became involved in proton and neu-

tron research in the late 1930s, just as the hunt for the antiproton (the next step in antimatter investigation) began in earnest. The second world war intervened. Like many of the brightest young physics graduates in America, he was swept into the Manhattan Project. Already working on proton scattering experiments, he became involved with weapon materials and, in 1944, joined the teams trying to resolve the microsecond timing of the initiating neutron burst needed to ensure that a plutonium bomb explodes rather than fizzles. Wiegand, in the observation trench for the Trinity

test, was so appalled by the enormity of the explosion that he collapsed. "The weapon we had created was beyond belief," he said later. "Yet we could not demonstrate it to the Japanese because we were never really sure that we could make it work."

Immediately after the war, Wiegand went to the University of California and there gained his doctorate in 1950, when the mysteries of antimatter were back at centre stage. The atom of the simplest element, hydrogen, consists of a proton and an electron. Anti-hydrogen would consist of a positron and an antiproton. The positron had been shown to exist. Did the antiproton also exist? It was calculated that an energy of 6.6 billion electron volts would be needed to create antiprotons. The Bevatron, then on the drawing board, was designed to produce six billion electron volts — a far higher energy than any earlier proton accelerator. When the machine came into operation in 1954-55, with its detector system fine-tuned by Wiegand, it was found to produce more antiprotons than predicted. The existence of the crucial antiproton was proven beyond doubt.

Antimatter became an accepted component of cosmic theory and an intriguing new experimental possibility was opened up. Would it be possible to generate on earth the

conditions needed to create anti-hydrogen? The question stimulated high-energy physicists throughout the world and in the end, it was not actually resolved at Berkeley, where Wiegand spent much of his career inventing, developing and improving particle and X-ray detector systems. Nevertheless — and although by then a sick man — Wiegand was delighted when, earlier this year, scientists at CERN — the European high energy physics laboratory — announced the creation and observation of a few atoms of anti-hydrogen.

His delight was typical. Clyde Wiegand had an overwhelming interest in his science and, although hurt by his exclusion from the Nobel prize, was without malice or jealousy. He was endowed with great grasp and imagination, yet also a man with inner calm. He was a family man with a wide breadth of interests, a great gardener, a lover of music who, until quite late in life, sought the isolation of mountain climbing and, as a pilot, the practical poetry of flight. He is survived by his wife Della, whom he married in 1956, shortly after the war, and by two sons and a daughter.

Anthony Tucker
Clyde Wiegand, physicist, born May 23, 1915; died July 5, 1996



Emile Segrè, Clyde Wiegand, Edward Lofgren, Owen Chamberlain and Thomas Ypsilantis

Jackdaw



Table talk

I HAD occasion to reflect on this [the disintegration of a sense of shame] when I joined several artists and critics for dinner at an opening night party at a gallery off Cork Street.

when I announced that I was an avid fan of Lady Thatcher's. From there the exchange rapidly degenerated. Somehow the phrase "British Empire" insinuated itself into the conversation. I made the mistake of speaking up for that, too, observing that there was a lot to be said for imperialism, particularly the British variety, and especially when you considered what a botch most of their former colonies had made of their countries without western guidance.

Well, that was simply not to be borne. The artist told me that just as no person had the right to impose his values on anyone else, so, too, no culture — especially no be-nighted western culture — had the right to impose its values on another culture. What about his wanting to assassinate Mrs Thatcher, you wonder? Wouldn't that be a bit of an imposition, at least from her point of view? Apparently that was different. But then what about the many societies in what used to be called the Dark Continent, and elsewhere, in

which female genital mutilation is widespread? Surely western European societies, with their commitment to universal human rights, had a right, nay, an obligation, to intervene where they could to discourage this barbaric practice? At this, the female art critic grew thoughtful. But the artist was ready with the evening's *pièce de résistance*. Not only was female genital mutilation no worse or more barbaric than (male) circumcision, he said, it was no worse than an English parent sending his children to public school.

That did momentarily take my breath away. He wasn't serious? Oh, yes, quite, serious. He even had an elaborate talk about how English public schools perpetuate an evil, class-ridden capitalist society. It was right out of central casting. And, of course, here was a man who was just about to depart for the many bucolic acres of his Hampshire farm and art studio, a welcoming retreat paid for, I gathered, from the sale of aggressively mediocre abstract drawings of the sort I had seen in the gallery

exhibition earlier. It was almost enough to make one lament the evils of capitalism. Almost enough, but not quite. Almost enough, Roger Kimball asks *Will There Always Be An England? in the dystopian columns of the New Critique*. Roger Kimball, straight out of central casting and author of *Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Corrupted Our Higher Education*.

Screen test

SINCE about 1960, I have not bothered very much in the way of British film, or, since 1970, continental ones. Why is a very interesting question. In part it has to do with provincialisation. Turn on the BBC Six O'Clock News to see this — frolics of the minor royals; a fuss about some health matter ("illness is common," pronounced a grand Polish lady). They gave the Six O'Clock News to the Hungarians as a goodwill gesture, for their English lessons, back in 1990. Hungarians... could not believe the nonsense, put it out late at

night, and then stopped broadcasting it altogether. The BBC World Service, which is most definitely not provincial, is now, apparently, to be run down. Another little sign: Oxford has just advertised for a director of the Ashmolean. The salary, a net £2,500 per month, is less than my window-cleaner's. A country which neglects the basics in this way is just not going to be any good at making films: too snobbish, too provincially naïf, too provincial to have any sense of aesthetics. Norman Stone writing in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* about British cinema or the lack of it.

Jail sentences

IMPORTANT writers are often rebellious, irreverent, even outrageous in their apprenticeship years, and some (like Norman Mailer) remain so. Political correctness encourages caution, parochialism and self-censorship. It is interesting to note how Robert O'Connor has deftly

slipped the handcuffs of such inhibitions [by writing a non-fiction novel about teaching creative writing in a prison]. By choosing to write in the mode of the non-fiction novel he had provided himself with an impregnable defence against anyone who might find his subject matter offensive: that's the way it is. And by making himself the narrator and central character he is able to voice the liberal pi-



THS... not provincial

Birthdays

Alan Barnes, saxophonist, 37; David Essex, pop singer and entertainer, 48; Michael Foot, former leader of the Labour Party, 83; Graham Gooch, cricketer, 43; Judith Kerr, magazine editor, 49; Earl, magazine editor, 49; Kathleen Hall, educationalist, 71; The Rev Betsy Haworth, deacon and non-stipendiary minister, 72; Sir Harry Hoekway, former pro-chancellor of Loughborough University, 75; Elisabeth Rexley, novelist, 86; Sir Charles Kervin, president of the Tyndall, Isle of Man, 78; Viktor Korchnoi, chess grand-master, 65; Brian McDermott, actor, 62; Clive Rice, cricketer, 47; Sir Richard Rogers, architect, notably, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and Lloyd's, London, 83; Prof Andrew Rutherford, vice-chancellor of the University of London, 67; Richard Searby QC, deputy chairman of Times Newspapers Holdings, 66; Sir John Stokes, former Conservative MP, 79; Andy Townsend, Aston Villa footballer, 33; Peter Twiss, former test pilot, 75.

Death Notices

BOTHEM (Mabel, peacefully at Sun Ryder Home, 17th July, suddenly at home, Purbeck, Dorset, aged 92, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

HALLIBONE (On 17th July, suddenly at home, Purbeck, Dorset, aged 92, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

HALLIBONE (On 17th July, suddenly at home, Purbeck, Dorset, aged 92, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

IRVINE (Douglas Hamilton (Dor), former vice-chancellor of the Polytechnic of Central London, died 17th July 1996 at Broomfield Hospital, Lower Hill, London, aged 81, after a long illness. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, Golders Green, London, on Friday 26th July 1996 at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

SCOTT (Margaret Mary (née) 28th July 1908, peacefully at home, 17th July 1996, aged 88, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

TOWERS (Gladys, on July 17th aged 88, peacefully at home, 17th July 1996, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

WILSON (John, on July 17th aged 88, peacefully at home, 17th July 1996, mother of Janet and Neil and grandmothers to David and Andrew. Cremation at Golden Grove crematorium, Friday 26th July 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St. John's Hosp., Langston, Peabody, Essex, PE8 6W.

Desmond Christy

July 23 1996

How to avoid rip-offs, page 12

Tougher controls on aircraft vetting, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

TUC prods Bank on EMU

Larry Elliott and Rebecca Smithers

GROWING splits on the Left over Europe will be revealed today when TUC leaders press the Bank of England for a more positive approach to a single currency and a group of 50 opposition Euro-sceptics step up their attack on monetary union.

With Labour grass-roots sentiment hinting at a backlash against Europe, TUC leader John Monks will head a delegation to meet governor

Eddie George and his deputy, Howard Davies, in the first top-level discussions between the Bank and the unions on the EMU project.

The TUC, which has become markedly more enthusiastic about a single currency over the past couple of years, will be stressing the dangers of the UK being left behind by a hard-core group likely to go ahead with monetary union in 1999.

Senior TUC sources said it was important to keep options open because in the end the "balance of forces" were likely to be in favour of joining.

"We are clear about the costs of allowing other countries to make the running, and then only jolting belatedly when the rules have been made," one source said.

The TUC is eager to see an employment clause included in the EMU project, but it also sees direct advantages from involvement in the preparations for the single currency. Tony Dobbins, leader of the print union GPMU, will attend the talks as part of the unions' campaign to have the new Euro currency printed in the UK.

Although the TUC is now adopting a pro-European

stance, the Labour leadership is determined not to be rushed into a decision on the EMU. Labour Party leader Tony Blair believes the arguments are finely balanced, and that the party is entitled to debate the issue fully.

The strength of anti-EMU feeling in the Parliamentary Labour Party was reflected today when around 50 MPs — enough to cause trouble for a future Labour administration — supported a new pamphlet opposing a single currency. It warns that monetary union would mean "all effective economic policy will be transferred from an elected govern-

ment to European bankers, beyond our control".

Like their Tory counterparts, they are urging their leader to act now to rule out a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

The detailed question-and-answer leaflet has been produced by Diane Abbott, a member of the party's ruling National Executive Committee; Dennis Davies, the former Treasury minister; Alan Simpson, chairman of the left-wing Campaign Group of MPs; Euro-MP Ail Lunan, former leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party; and Lew Smith MP, chair-

man of People's Europe. Pro-Europe Labour MPs noted a number of strongly anti-Europe motions simultaneously drawn up by constituency parties ahead of Labour's party conference.

The chairman of the all-party European Movement, Giles Radice MP, has written to all Labour MPs in an attempt to set out the case for monetary union. "Joint economic action at a European level is far more likely to assist Labour's drive to reduce unemployment and improve Britain's competitiveness than a go-it-alone approach," he said.

Notebook

Missing out on the millennium



Alex Brummer

THE prospect of a permanent, futuristic Millennium Exhibition, rising phoenix-like from British Gas wasteland in Greenwich, is an exhilarating one.

Anyone who has visited Disney's Epcot in Florida or Hershey Park in Pennsylvania knows that well-planned exhibits and entertainment centres, sponsored or put together by large corporations, can provide enrichment and enjoyment, and become significant tourist magnets. With some imagination and commercial wit, they can be profitable, too.

If the Heritage Department were better at what it does, there would not be a scramble to develop a Millennium Exhibition so close to the event. But that is in the past and Michael Heseltine, with customary energy, is seeking to bring corporate Britain on board by raising £150 million of private-sector funds.

This is no easy task. British companies are notoriously mean-spirited when it comes to contributing to the greater public good: of some £76 billion in pre-tax profits made in 1995, only £163 million — 0.21 per cent — found its way into charity and community projects, according to the Charities Aid Foundation. Contrast this with the corporate generosity — not just to its executives — seen among many Fortune 500 companies in the US.

The millennium offers British industry a chance to give something back to the country, promote its own excellence and provide a permanent showpiece for commerce. There is an opportunity to recreate the innovation which inspired the Crystal Palace in the Victorian era.

The banks have agreed to support the City pavilion, and British Aerospace, British Airways and BAA are taking part. But great sections of industry, including the pharmaceuticals group Glaxo Wellcome, are giving the millennium project a raspberry. Even the leisure and brewing industries, which stand to gain from the celebrations, are showing reluctance.

Participation in the millennium project is likely to be uplisting for all stakeholders in British companies: shareholders, consumers and employees. It is not a question of

research and development versus supporting a millennium pavilion. It is a case of British industry giving something back to the nation, and underpinning the value of UK technology and brands at the same time. If that means some arm-twisting by the deputy prime minister, so be it.

Halifax hubris

THE Halifax — soon to be Britain's most broadly held consumer bank — has deemed to update its members on the next steps to conversion.

However, instead of choosing to write to each member individually, which would ensure that everyone knows the rules of the game, the society has chosen to place its 19-page explanatory booklet in branch offices. It ought to have realised that a large number of its depositors and borrowers, including those who pay their mortgages by standing order, rarely go near their branch.

Indeed, since the flurry of publicity which followed Halifax's decision to merge with the Leeds and turn itself into a plc, it has shown a notable absence of communication. The Halifax, which will go public in June 1997, we learn from the new booklet, will be a very different group to the organisation that announced conversion on November 25, 1994.

It has used the intervening period to embark on an ambitious expansion programme, snapping up the books of central mortgage lenders, buying estate agency offices abandoned by the Alliance & Leicester, spending £300 million on Clerical Medical, and more recently seeking to forge a relationship with health insurance provider Bupa.

Yet, despite this flurry of activity, the Halifax makes no attempt to explain in its booklet what this acquisitive strategy, paid for with members' funds, is all about or where it is leading. That is not something it will be able to do when it is a plc, without upsetting its big-battalion shareholders.

As for the conversion, it is taking — as chief executive Mike Blackburn acknowledges — an extraordinarily long time. Putting more than 10 million people on to the same data base is a huge exercise, although one suspects that the regulatory aspects of the change are less arduous than Mr Blackburn claims.

The leisurely timetable does indicate, however, that share certificates will be distributed in June 1997. This is one windfall which will come too late for this government to harvest.

Deal wins approval despite attacks from shareholders



Costain pushes through financial plan for survival

Ian Kling

COSTAIN, the troubled construction group, received shareholder backing yesterday for a controversial refinancing package that will see a little-known Malaysian group take a 40 per cent stake in the company.

At a stormy extraordinary general meeting held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, shareholders approved the deal by just over three to one, despite opposition by Costain's second biggest shareholder, Kuwait-based Kharafi & Sons, which holds 19 per cent.

But the plan — dubbed by Costain as the only one available for its survival — was backed by other investors, including Raymond International, the group's other major Middle Eastern shareholder.

It means Costain, whose contracts from the Department of Transport currently include the controversial Newbury by-pass, should be able to stave off receivership.

Shares in Costain — worth £14 each five years ago, but suspended at 39p last month when the group detailed its financial predicament — later returned from suspension, to close up 7p at 46p on the news.

Under the plan, Costain's £73.6 million rights issue will go ahead, giving the



Calling Costain... an environmentalist demonstrating against the construction firm's involvement in the Newbury by-pass is moved by police

Malaysian group Intris Ltd a stake of up to 40 per cent in the enlarged Costain. Other creditors — including NatWest — will underwrite another 35 per cent in a debt-for-equity swap.

At the meeting the chief executive, Alan Lovell, endured continual attacks from shareholders, during which he and other board members — including the chairman, Sir Christopher Benson — were called on to resign.

One shareholder, refer-

ring to the fact that Costain has paid no dividend since 1992, told the board: "You are the most incompetent directors ever. Why are you lining your pockets with money when we haven't got any dividends?"

Afterwards, Mr Lovell said he was "delighted" that so many Costain shareholders had supported the plans. "We can now look forward to continuing to develop our core engineering and construction businesses in the UK and around the world," he said.

Earlier, there were scuffles outside the meeting as police moved on a demonstration by around 50 environmentalists opposed to Costain's involvement at Newbury.

Heavily outnumbered by the police, the protesters waved placards attacking Costain's environmental record and complained of their treatment.

"The police say they're here to keep the public order, but they know we're not disorderly," said one woman.

Escom crash hits Thom EMI share price

Roger Cove

WARNINGS that Thom EMI could face a £30 million charge from the collapse of the chain of Escom retail computer stores sent the group's shares tumbling yesterday.

The music group's music and rentals group gave details of its demerger plan and announced disappointing first-quarter music sales.

Chairman Sir Colin Southgate told shareholders in the demerger document posted yesterday that he had sold 100 businesses in the past 10 years, in the run-up to the final separation of the group, which came together in 1979.

He urged shareholders to vote for the demerger at the general meeting on August 16. The two businesses had "financial and operating characteristics which differ significantly from each other".

The demerger documents show that the EMI Group, with sales last year of £2.5 billion and operating profit of £268 million, would take £131 million of the group's total debts at the end of March, which amounted to £391 million. But EMI will also be liable for this year's dividend and tax payments.

Escom, the German computer-group, acquired 200 former Rumbelow stores from Thom EMI in 1994 after the British group decided to pull out of high street retailing of consumer electrical goods. Escom UK went into receivership last week and its German parent also crashed.

Thom EMI may therefore become liable for the shops if the receivers do not find buyers.

Thom said yesterday it was reviewing the situation "in order to establish what liabilities (if any) might arise pro-

spectively if leaseholds es- sisted. UK revert to Thom under priority of contract principles".

If the group becomes liable for all 230 shops, the cost would be £30 million. But Colin said he hoped that many of the shops would be sold by the receivers. The liability came with results for the first quarter, which showed a surge in pre-tax profits from £64 million to £106 million. But most of the increase came from profits on the sale of Thom's 40 per cent interest in its US security business and analysts were disappointed at the underlying operating performance.

"Overall, the group was a little bit below expectations, and the music figure is on the slow side," said Christopher Page, an analyst with Goldman Sachs. Thom shares fell 42p, 2.4 per cent, to close at 1.665p.

Operating profit rose by 7 per cent to £74 million, on sales up by £28 million to just over £2.1 billion.

Sir Colin said the first quarter of the year was not the most important period and that he still expected business to be buoyant for the rest of the year.

He pointed out that currency movements had depressed a much brighter picture once the figures were translated to sterling. In local currency, music sales and profits were up by 5 per cent and 17 per cent respectively.

EMI Music's successes in the quarter included Tina Turner's *Wildest Dreams* album, which has yet to be released in the US, and George Michael's *Older*, his first album for Virgin since quitting Sony. It has sold more than three million copies outside North America.

Energy shares show brief rise

Simon Beavis

SMALL shareholders in British Energy briefly saw their shares go above last week's issue price for the first time yesterday after the company restored two faulty reactors to power.

But the troubled stock soon tumbled back to leave investors showing losses once again.

News that British Energy had completed inspections of reactors at Hunterston B,

Ayrshire, and Hinkley Point B in Somerset, pushed shares up to 102p against the party paid discounted issue price for small shareholders of 100p. But the shares gave up the early gains and closed last night at 97p, leaving an investor with a minimum allocation of 300 shares nursing a loss of £9.

The closure of the two stations, announced on July 10, sparked a political storm as the news came at just hours after the deadline for the public to apply for shares.

The Government recently de-

nied Labour claims that the news had been withheld until after the deadline passed in what the Opposition described as an "organised deceit".

The Stock Exchange launched an inquiry into the issue, concerned by the fact that investors could have

been given more information about the problems at the reactors, and further problems at Sizewell B in Suffolk, ahead of the sale.

As a result of the technical problems, shares in the company immediately fell at the start of trading last Monday.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 1.8875	France 7.54	Italy 2.295	Singapore 2.19
Austria 15.72	Germany 2.2350	Malta 0.5390	South Africa 6.50
Belgium 45.95	Greece 356.50	Netherlands 2.51	Spain 168.25
Canada 2.0575	Hong Kong 11.54	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.02
Cyprus 0.98	India 55.08	Norway 9.98	Switzerland 1.8150
Denmark 8.58	Ireland 0.9325	Portugal 230.00	Turkey 123.005
Finland 6.9450	Israel 4.32	Saudi Arabia 5.78	USA 1.51

Supplied by Halifax Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

"SHIFT..."

One worker missing and another 'critical' after sugar plant blast

ONE worker was missing and another was in critical condition after an explosion at a Tate & Lyle sugar factory in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, yesterday. Tate said the blast would hit profits by about £10 million this year.



PHOTOGRAPH: NICK MYERS

Delay builds up gas pressure

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

THE protracted stand-off between British Gas and its regulator skripted into new skirmishes yesterday after Ofgas announced it was delaying the announcement of new price controls until mid-August.

ness was unnecessary and would exacerbate uncertainty among shareholders and staff. The two sides have been engaged in a hostile battle since Clare Spottiswoode, the director general of Ofgas, announced in May outline proposals to cut TransCo's prices by between 20 and 28 per cent from next year.

that they have come close to settling their difference and it remains likely that the dispute will eventually be referred to the Monopolies Commission for resolution. The final price controls were due to have been announced later this week, although British Gas argues they should have been unveiled up to three weeks ago.

price review. The bank will be helping Ofgas assess the company's claims that it will be forced to make draconian cuts in its dividend payments if the watchdog refuses to water down her proposals.

Some observers believe the delays are an indication that Ofgas is preparing to soften its price proposals for what is the most lucrative part of the British Gas empire.

But there was no hint of compromise from the two camps last night. Mr Rogerson said he had seen speculation that the regulator was softening her stance but he had seen no sign of it. Asked if he thought if there was now more chance of avoiding a MMC confrontation, he said: "I've seen no particular signs that things are more optimistic than they've ever been."

BSkyB set to escape monopoly inquiry over cable TV charges

Lisa Buckingham

SATELLITE TV group BSkyB is understood to have escaped a Monopolies Commission inquiry into the terms on which it supplies programmes to cable companies.

part of 18 months, and is keen to remove the doubts which have clouded investor sentiment about its future. Although the group's shares fell by 4p to 480p, analysts said a green light from the OFT — even if there was some business downside for BSkyB — would be beneficial to the rating of the company, which is about to expand into digital broadcasting in Britain and Germany.

complaint that BSkyB's terms on programme supply mean it is hard for them to make an adequate return and appear to be competitive with Sky in consumers' eyes. One of the issues involves BSkyB's insistence that cable operators must buy its entire package of programmes. The cable industry wants BSkyB to be forced to "unbundle" the package, allowing them to select specific programmes and channels.

The cable companies found an ally in the telecoms regulator. Ofcom, whose case to the OFT argued that BSkyB's pricing policies were holding back the development of cable TV in Britain.

News in brief

Carlton snaps up Cinema Media stake

CARLTON Communications, the media group that owns the London weekday broadcaster Carlton and Central TV, is paying £35.5 million to purchase an 80 per cent stake of the US cinema advertising market. The company is buying Cinema Media, better known under its former name of Rank Screen Advertising, which also boasts a monopoly of cinema advertising in Ireland. Michael Green, the chairman of Carlton, said the deal gave his group "another market-leading business in screen-based entertainment".

Shorter crash barrier

THE New York Stock Exchange will shut down for half an hour instead of an hour if the Dow Jones industrial average slumps 200 points in the first important change to the circuit breakers introduced after the 1987 crash. The 250-point market halt rule was part of the package of post-1987 measures designed to take the sting out of market panics. In the bedlam of 1987 the Dow crashed 518 points on October 19, its worst day ever. The trading halts have never been used although it was a close run thing on March 8, when the Dow fell 216 points before rebounding late in the day. In another change, likely to come within a few months, the New York Stock Exchange is expected to increase the size of the drop that would trigger a temporary shutdown by at least 100 points. — Mark Tran

Reckitt raises £48m

RECKITT & Colman has raised a further £48 million from the latest in a string of asset sales that have brought in a total of £200 million. Reckitt has sold the 80 per cent owned Brazilian pigments and coatings unit, Globo Tintas E Pigmentos, for £50.1 million. The joint purchasers are Bayer and the US group Sherwin-Williams. Globo's 1995 pre-tax profit was £3.8 million, of which the contribution to Reckitt & Colman was approximately £7.1 million. Net assets at December 31 were £15.6 million. The sale is part of the group's strategy of concentrating on household products, and does not affect its household products business in Brazil. — Eadit

BAA takes control

BAA yesterday announced it was taking full control of Heathrow Express, the planned rail link between central London and Heathrow Airport, by paying British Rail £19.6 million for the 30 per cent stake it does not already own. The 16-minute rail link from London's Paddington station to Heathrow is scheduled to open on June 1, 1998. — Bloomberg

CAA safety review to tighten up loopholes in aircraft vetting rules

Keith Harper Transport Editor

TOUGHER controls on foreign-registered aircraft that land in Britain without being properly vetted are to be considered by the Government in a review it is conducting with the Civil Aviation Authority.

terday there was further scope for action, and said it was on a list of priorities the CAA would be pursuing over the next few months. With thousands of air movements each day, it is impossible to vet every foreign-registered aircraft, but the Department of Transport and the CAA are to inquire into how registration loopholes can be closed. One of the CAA's aims will be to improve communications. The CAA also faces increased pressure to deal with the collapse of air-tour operators. It operates a fund which guarantees full compensation to tourists affected by company bankruptcies.

thousands of tourists unable to fly out or return from the Mediterranean and Canary Islands. The CAA said the cost of reimbursing customers was £3 million and it had been forced to apply to the Government for permission to borrow up to a further £11 million. Legislation is required to change funding rules, but the Government has not had sufficient parliamentary time for it. CAA officials said if the fund dried up, passengers would have to be surcharged at 50p a head.

airline has agreed to put some of the money on hold. Mr Kinnock yesterday confirmed he had reached agreement with the French government over the final £75 billion instalment of a package approved two years ago by his predecessor, Marcelino Oreja. Commission sources said that £1 billion of this will only be released to Air France after the Commission's report on the airline's restructuring in March 1997. Despite this and several other concessions, the Commission is certain to be condemned by private carriers, including British Airways, currently challenging the initial aid package in the European Court of Justice.

Pay-outs by investors' rescue fund reach peak

Rachel Beard

VICTIMS of failed investment firms were paid a record £35 million last year, taking the total pay-out by the Investors' Compensation Scheme since 1988 to more than £100 million.

The number of firms whose customers needed help rose by a third last year to 71, according to the ICS annual report, published yesterday. The scheme steps in where a firm is unable to compensate victims of bad advice or poor investment management, and is funded by all authorised investment firms.

Richard Lawson, retiring ICS chairman, defended the need for a "final safety net" for investors, despite improving regulation.

More than 1,500 people were compensated by the scheme in the year to March 1996, with 74 per cent of payments falling below £15,000. A further 1,200 people made new claims in the year, 55 per cent of which related to bad advice, while 22 per cent concerned home income plans. Myra Kinghorn, chief executive, said she expected more

pensions-related claims in future as the investigation of mis-selling continues. The pensions industry has not decided how to compensate victims of bad advice whose advisers are unable to pay redress, and Mr Lawson warned that firms must "unambiguously" support whatever funding system was agreed.

Over the next year there are likely to be hundreds of compensation claims from victims of the failed investment firm Knight Williams, which targeted unit trusts at elderly investors. Last week the ICS announced it would consider compensation claims from the firm's clients, some 900 of whom have already lodged claims with Knight Williams's liquidator.

The scheme is also involved in court action with West Bromwich Building Society, from which it is claiming £30 million to compensate about 650 people who bought home income plans from the failed firm Fisher Prew Smith. The investors' mortgages were with the West Bromwich, which the ICS says "could be held to be responsible" for the losses. The building society denies this.

101 Golden Rules for Investors

Expect more than more a scribbled note on the back of an envelope as proof of your investment. Don't exaggerate your salary, pretend you understand things you don't, or lie about your age. Take with a pinch of salt other people's 'winning formulas', especially those you hear at the pub. Ostriches, chinchillas... angora goats: these are not legally defined as investments.

Beware of the ostrich, avoid the fluid

Richard Thomas

IT'S official: the entrepreneurial, risk-it-all society mothered by Mrs Thatcher has come to an end. Enter, in its place, the cautious, sensible world of the 1990s.

Yesterday the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) unveiled "101 golden rules" for investors, designed to stop money being lost. (The Scheme's money, that is. Every time an authorised investment fund goes belly-up, the ICS has to cough up as much as £48,000 to each punter.)

The list contains items to make the free-marketeer shudder. "Be wary of get-rich-quick schemes," the report says. Try telling that to Alan Sugar, Richard Branson or George Soros.

Also included in the litany is this warning: "If you've never heard of the investment, or it seems particularly complicated, is this really for you?"

Good job the report was not in the hands of the original Microsoft investors. "Microwho? No thank you, the ICS has warned me about people like you."

David Cresswell, the ICS Investment Relations Manager, admitted to a degree of caution. "We are dealing with people who have lost their life savings, so maybe there

is an innate scepticism," he said. He also admitted that the ICS could have something to gain, given that four out of five complaints are now about the grey area of "bad advice" from the army of investment experts in pursuit of Aunt Ethel's money. "Fewer claims would certainly be good for our bottom line," he said.

Unfortunately, for the budding investor, the ICS guidelines are often confusing. For example: "Wait your adviser at his offices. This can tell you a lot about the type of business."

As Mr Cresswell says: "Without wishing to be snobby, if the adviser is in a Fofokabin that should tell you something."

But on the very next page, the ICS cautions against being over-cautious, "save manners and pinch offices". According to Mr Cresswell, potential investors should beware of "extremes". Great.

There is at least one section, though, where the guidelines are clear. "Ostriches, chinchillas, fine wine, tulip bulbs, classic cars, bloodstock, gemstones, donkeys and angora goats are not legally defined as investments," the ICS warns.

So if you put your money into any of these, no compensation can be paid. Bad news for ostrich-egg farming — one of the growth areas of the future.

Other parts of the report, on the other hand, seem to be encouraging grandmothers to suck eggs. "Think about your plans for the future," is one example. And: "Be cautious of... correction funds on important documents." So correction fluid can be used to cover things up, eh? Crazy devils.

But the ICS does come up with a truly golden piece of advice. "Always read the money pages of your newspaper." It commands. Now you're talking.

Advertisement for Mercury with the headline "...UP A GEAR." and the sub-headline "Is your company on Mercury's data network?". The ad features a stylized illustration of a person's head and shoulders, looking towards the right. The background is dark with some abstract shapes. At the bottom right, there is a small logo with Arabic text.

Soccer
White Feather lands at Boro

Ian Ross on a warm Riverside reception for the £7m striker Fabrizio Ravanelli

THE SUN beat down relentlessly on the beautiful game, but this was not Turin far from it.

In the shimmering haze of summer Teesside has rarely looked better as dawn broke on the Riverside.

To the sound of rapidly emptying bank coffers, Middlesbrough laid down the welcome mat for the pampers of another luminary improbably lured to an ambitious if still unfashionable club.

The latest to step off the Continental conveyor belt was Italy's Fabrizio Ravanelli, lured away from Juventus in a £7 million transfer deal.

The "White Feather" — his famous grey locks un-sympathetically shorn — was given the now-traditional Boro welcome by a crowd of more than 750.

It is one extended to all overseas players drawn to the club by the bright lure of naked ambition and stout wage packets.

Last month, after Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson persuaded him to embark on what he calls a "great adventure", Ravanelli confessed he did not even know where Middlesbrough was. His sense of geography improved, he was the perfect diplomat yesterday.

"I hope we can achieve something great here," he said, speaking through an interpreter. "I was impressed with Bryan Robson when I met him and I also knew him as a great footballer."

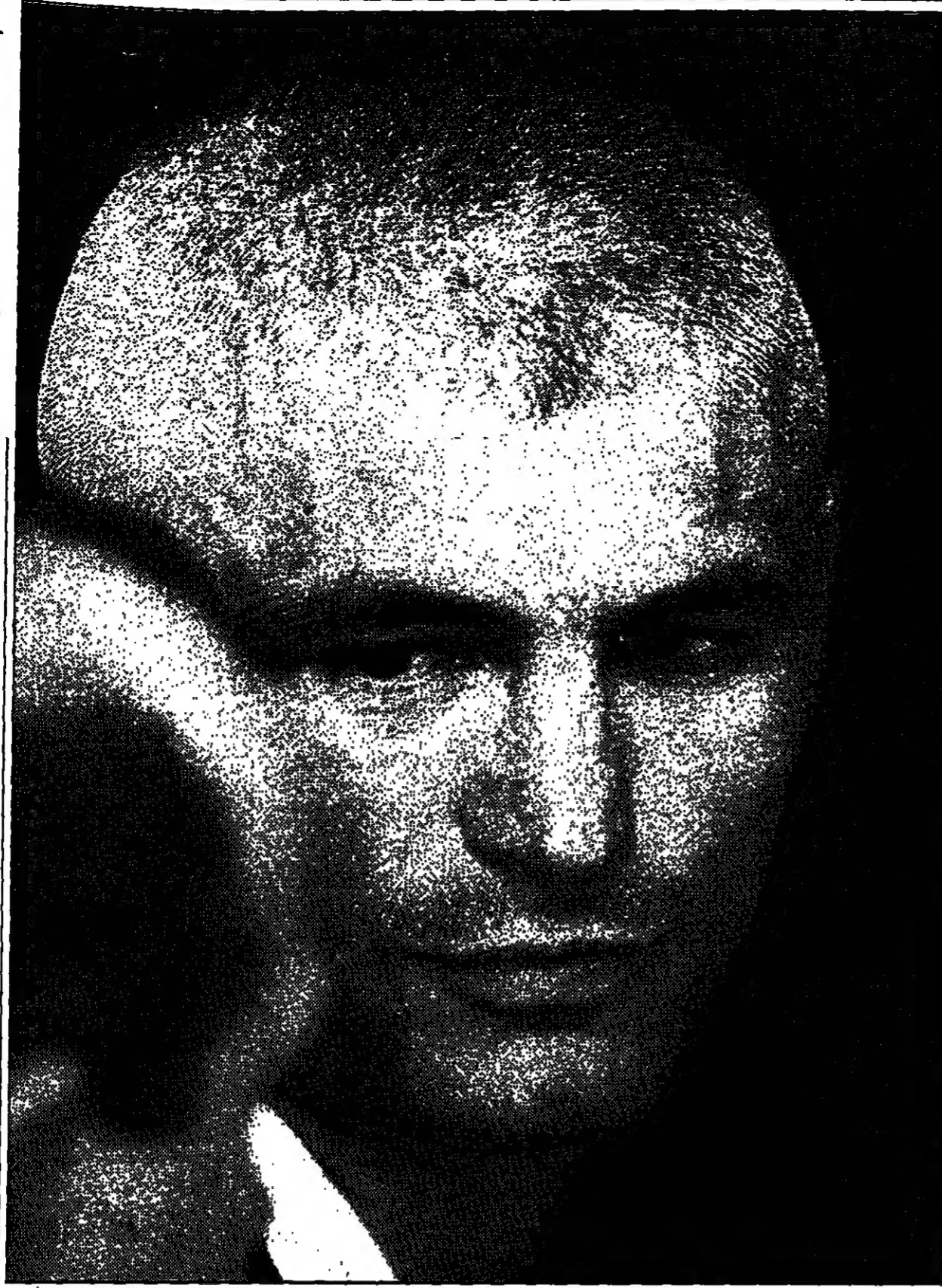
"The players he has brought to his club prove the level of ambition. He has said that I have the chance of helping to create history because Middlesbrough hasn't won anything at all for more than 100 years. To be honest, I did not think that Juventus would sell me. That they did, hurt and saddened me, but it all helped me."

Ten years ago Middlesbrough perched on the abyss. The receivers were called in and the gates to the club's former home, Ayresome Park, were padlocked.

The transformation has been utterly astonishing. Since his installation in May 1994, Robson has invested £24 million in new players.

Ravanelli is no more than the latest in a long line following the Brazilians Juninho, Branco and Emerson. There was also the arrival of Hull's finest, Nick Barmby.

The talk yesterday was of ambition, objectives and attainable targets but, clearly, had the deal not been placed in such an enticing silver — or more accurately golden — lining



From Turin to Teesside... Ravanelli arrived yesterday to start his 'great adventure' £55.6 RICHARD RAYNER

wasting someone else's money, Robson cut a figure of contempt.

"Fabricio reminds me very much of Alan Shearer," he said. "If I was to offer £7 million for the best English strikers — Shearer, Fowler or Sheeringham — I would just be laughing at it."

"I decided to look ahead. He is one of the best goal scorers in the world. He is direct and positive and I do think that he will complement the type of player that he will find himself alongside at this

club in the season ahead."

Birmingham City have sold Paul Peschisoldo, husband of the club's managing director Karen Brady, for a second time. The Canadian international forward has joined West Bromwich for £600,000 and Birmingham's midfielder Richard Forsyth has gone to Stoke for £200,000 as Trevor Francis attempts to raise £2 million to sign the Blackburn striker Mike Newell.

Leicester's Martin O'Neill has made a £1 million bid for Norwich's winger Darren Eadie.

Rugby Union

Twickenham must consider break with Sky

David Plummer

ENGLAND will today begin two days of trying to convince the other members of the Five Nations committee that they should be readmitted to the championship.

Delegations from England, France, Wales, Scotland and Ireland will meet in Cardiff at the instigation of the new Rugby Football Union president John Richardson. But a more crucial gathering will convene in Dublin tomorrow, when the Five Nations committee proper holds its monthly get-together.

England's position is to be formally considered there, although the bottom line is that the RFU would probably have to take up its £87.5 million contract with BSkyB and renege on joint negotiations.

The chief aim is the restoration of the Five Nations Championship, said Richardson. "I am intent on finding a solution but we know that whatever the outcome it will not please everybody, but this is a serious and important issue."

Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and of the International Rugby Board, does not believe the issue will be resolved for two months, however. "We have extended the deadline for British to tender for the championship's television contract until the end of this month," he said.

"The time for talking in public has come to an end; it is a matter now for the negotiating table and what we will find out this week is whether

England are prepared to reconsider their position."

England would be required to make concessions on four fronts: the sovereignty of the Five Nations committee when it comes to negotiating the television contract, equal access for all the six nations to the tendering process so that everyone has a chance to bid for the rights; and acceptance that money is not the only issue, that the television audience base is to be considered.

There have been suggestions that Sky is prepared to re-allocate some of England's cash to Scotland, Ireland and Wales, but that would not offer a way out. As far as they are concerned all four unions should take equal shares.

The RFU's delegates in Cardiff represent the split within its ranks: on the one hand Richardson and Cliff Brittle carry the flag for the traditionalists; the other John Jess-Fellows and Colin Herdridge were part of the team that concluded the Sky deal.

"The Five Nations championship is paramount to the future," said Brittle. "At the moment we are heading towards contracting the game and would end up with five elite nations worldwide. We have to take our heads out of the sand, look ahead and expand the game in Europe by creating new competitions at international level."

Brittle has the support of the majority of the RFU's member clubs and the threat of revolt is simmering in the regions, especially the North, where enough support has been garnered to call a special general meeting to debate a vote of no confidence in those

who negotiated the Sky deal. On the other hand England's Courage League One clubs have called for the Sky deal to remain, not least because they stand to benefit by £22.5 million.

Tom Kiernan, the chairman of the Five Nations committee, said: "We will just have to wait and see what England propose. It is an appalling state of affairs that such a major tournament has been abandoned but we hope just temporarily."

The solution that is likely to prove most acceptable is to agree to split the championship money equally between all four unions and for the RFU to negotiate its own deals for other internationals and the Courage League.

Neither England's participation in the 1999 World Cup nor its right to stage matches are under threat, yet; but Wales, Scotland and Ireland will make it clear that should the RFU take legal action against them — as has been threatened — for loss of income if England are not readmitted to the championship, its future as a member of the IRB will become an issue.

The three have another card to play: they could lobby MPs to make the championship one of sport's crown jewels, denying exclusive rights to non-terrestrial stations.

But the downside is two-fold: it would diminish the value of the tournament, but as far as they are concerned England's aggrandisement would cost it as much ultimately, and the upcoming cable revolution could eventually deliver vastly more money than Sky.

Llanelli eye Tuigamala

David Plummer

LLANELLI, aided by a £3 million cash injection from two benefactors, are trying to lure Valga Tuigamala and Scott Gibbs from rugby league.

The club's members last week overwhelmingly accepted a proposal for Llanelli to become a public limited company and the Scarlets now want Wigan's Tuigamala, a former All Black, and the former Wales and Lions centre Gibbs, although his current club Swansea, who vowed never to have the player back when he switched codes — are working on a package to interest him.

Richmond have bulked at the £200,000 price St Helens

have put on Gibbs's head and Cardiff who have also expressed an interest in the 25-year-old, are well stocked with international centres.

Tuigamala has also been linked with Wasps and Bath; if either were to succeed the deal would probably see him play under his own name in league for Wigan in the summer, but Llanelli want him full-time. The asking price would be around £400,000.

Llanelli are also interested in Warrington's stand-off Iestyn Harris, though his future could lie with the South Wales rugby league team, which tracked into next season's Super League last week.

South Wales want to recruit four league players and are prepared to share them with union clubs in the Principality.

If Llanelli do sign Harris, who could become league's first £1 million player, they will probably have to make a deal with South Wales.

Llanelli's cash injection has been brokered by a Japanese bank that has contacts with New Zealand players, specifically the All Blacks reserve league for Wigan in the summer, but Llanelli want him full-time. The asking price would be around £400,000.

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Results

Rugby League

Cardiff City v Swansea City 6, Manly 34.

Tennis

LEAS HAGON CLASSIC (Washington): Lash v Chubb (USA) 6-3, 6-2; Verrilli (USA) 6-3, 6-2.

Australian Open (Melbourne): First round: M. Hingis (AUS) 6-1, 6-0; S. Kiefer (GER) 6-3, 6-2; J. Hays (USA) 6-3, 6-2; J. Hays (USA) 6-3, 6-2; J. Hays (USA) 6-3, 6-2.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 10, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; 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Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10, Cleveland 7; Tampa Bay 10, St. Louis 6; Chicago 10, Minnesota 6; Oakland 10, Seattle 6; Texas 6, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 10; Detroit 10, Toronto 10; Milwaukee 3, New York 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 6, Oakland 11; Texas 6, St. Louis 6; Anaheim 1, New York 3; Boston 10, Cleveland 7; Los Angeles 10

OLYMPIC GAMES

There is as yet no women's NBA and no basketball millionaires, but we may not have long to wait after Atlanta

Bright Dawn for women's game

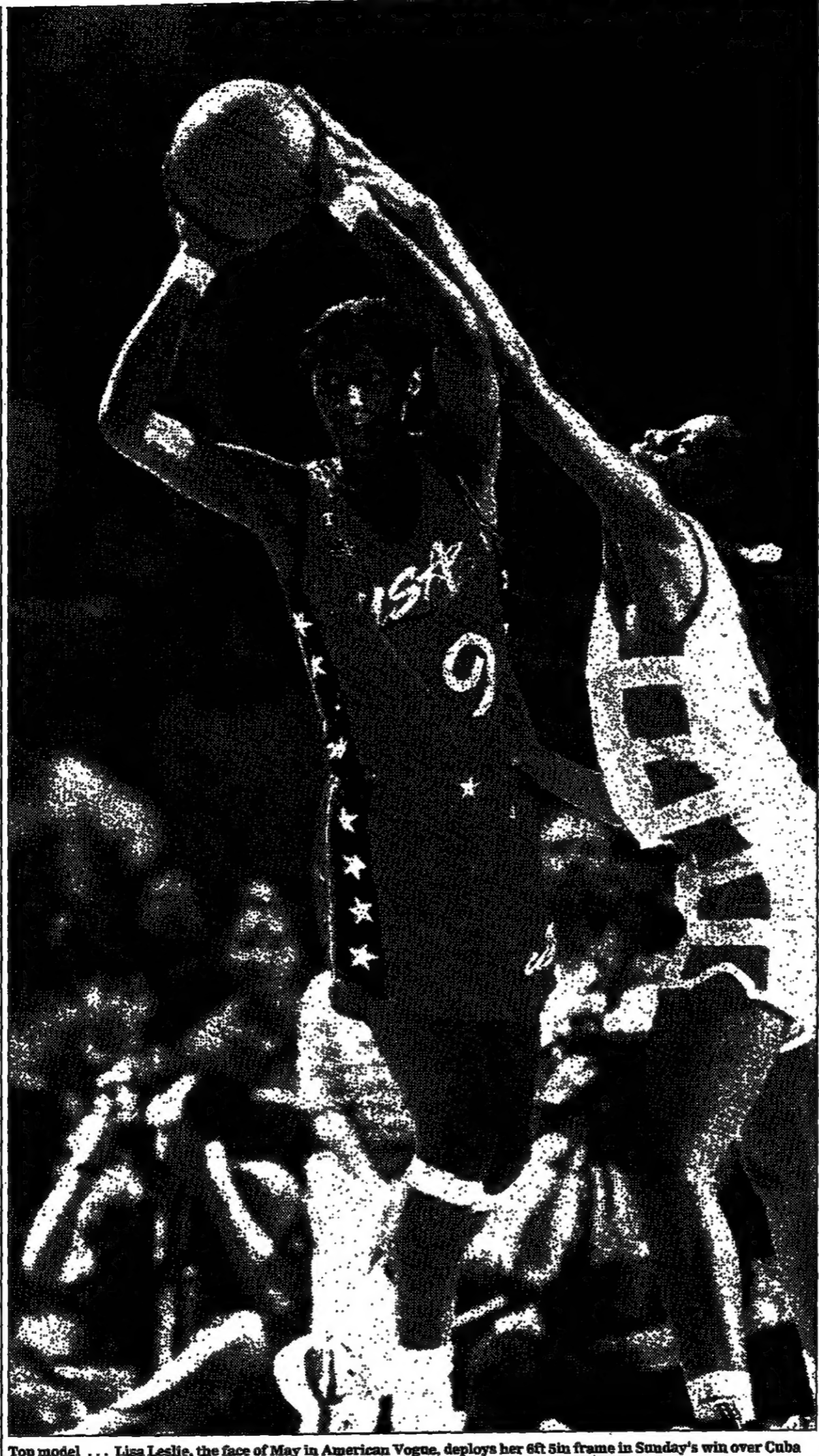
Basketball
Richard Williams

HERE IS a thing that Dawn Staley does with a basketball. A thing that reminds you why it is worth standing in line for...

Hollywood, I'm inner city," she said. "I'm a product of inner-city life. I grew up playing with guys, and some of that is going to rub off on you."

STALEY was in junior high school when she got a letter from a college offering her a basketball scholarship. "I knew that it would be my only chance of getting to college."

For Leslie in your average 6ft 5in Ethiopian princess, she does not look like a basketball player. She looks blunt and street-tough, which - born 26 years ago in the very mean streets of North Philadelphia - she is, but at 5ft 6in she is the team's smallest player.



Top model... Lisa Leslie, the face of May in American Vogue, deploys her 6ft 5in frame in Sunday's win over Cuba

Three face prompt expulsion

Drugs
Martin Palmer

AFTER only four days of Olympic action in Atlanta the organisers are fighting a rearguard battle to keep the Games drug-free. Already they have three offenders to deal with, all of whom are expected to be thrown out.

cause of "serious flaws in the testing procedure". Bevilacqua, one of the world's top six high-jumpers on this year's form, tested positive twice for ephedrine last May, but the Italian federation accepted her explanation that she had taken the banned stimulant by mistake and waived their automatic three-month suspension.

Herbert made to order for piece of eight

Rowing
Christopher Dodd

LASTING image of the Barcelona Olympics was Garry Herbert, cox to the Searle brothers, coxing on television as the national anthem was played at the medal ceremony.

day's repurchase, but it was a good row, especially in the middle part. Garry plays the best role that anyone can play, which is to stay positive all the time.

He has spent the year as the right-hand man to the coach Sean Bowden, pursuing the squad on their twice-weekly cycle rides round Berkshire in a four-wheel drive to rescue the punctured and the stragglers.

The British women's eight had a rotten row, summarised by Annemarie Stapleton in her boat seat: "We had a crap start, got dumped, and never got into a rhythm. The Romanians, world-record holders, won the race, with the world champions, the United States, losing the final qualifying place in the other heat to Belarus."

Sunday's results

- Baseball
New Zealand v South Korea 1-0
Cuba 8, Japan 7 (10 runs)
Women's preliminary round
Brazil 6, Canada 0, Korea 0, Japan 0, Cuba 0, Australia 7, South Korea 10, Ukraine 0

- Light flyweight (48kg)
First round: H. Mendez (Argentina) by D. Poykov (Bulgaria)
First round: Y. Goh (Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)

- Women's half heavyweight (75kg)
First round: T. J. Doherty (Ireland) by T. J. Doherty (Ireland)
First round: T. J. Doherty (Ireland) by T. J. Doherty (Ireland)

- Women's 100m freestyle
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)

- Women's 200m freestyle
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)

- Women's 4x200m freestyle relay
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)
First round: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)

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Sheffield United 18
Sheffield Wed. 14
Southampton 20
Stoke City 30
Sunderland 27
Tottenham Hot. 07
West Ham 12
Wimbledon 28
Wolves 37
Leeds United 03
Liverpool 04
Manchester City 02
Manchester Utd 16
Norwich City 16
Nottingham Forest 09
Rangers 10
QPR 25

- Women's individual events
Quarter-finalists: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)
Quarter-finalists: S. M. Kim (South Korea) by S. M. Kim (South Korea)

- Women's preliminary round
Group B: Holland 2, Belgium 0, Spain 0, Korea 0, Australia 0, South Korea 0, Ukraine 0, Cuba 0, Romania 0, Belarus 0

Today in Atlanta
Baseball: Netherlands v Cuba, Nicaragua v South Korea, Australia v Japan
Basketball: China v USA, USA v Brazil, USA v Germany, USA v Spain, USA v France, USA v Italy, USA v Argentina, USA v Korea, USA v South Korea, USA v Cuba, USA v South Korea

Gold and Silver for He...
Advertisement for a gold and silver product, featuring a large image of a gold bar and text describing its quality and availability.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Gold at end of Rainbow for Heyns

Swimming

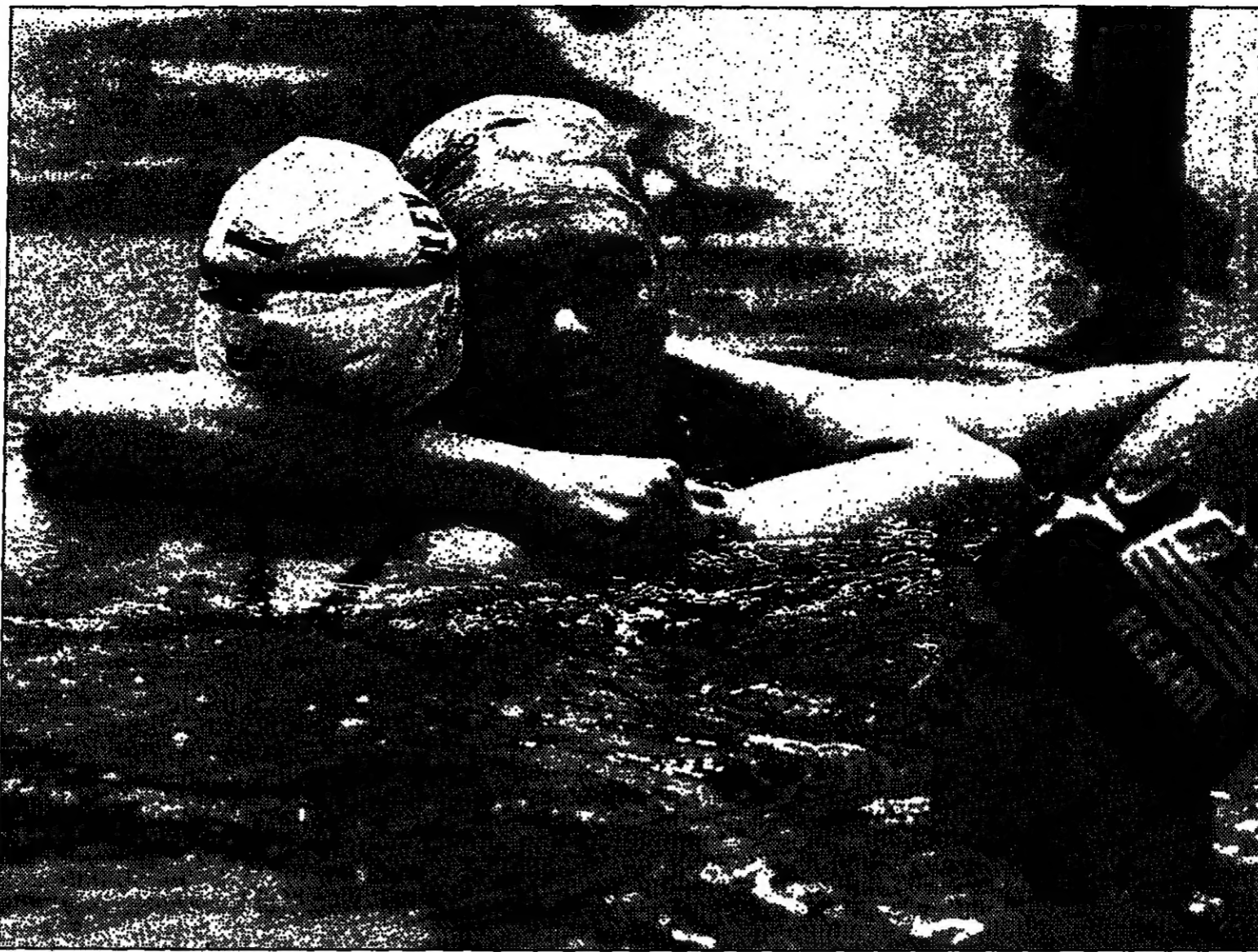
David Hopps

PENNY HEYNS was forced to concede the honour of carrying South Africa's flag at the opening ceremony...

As The Arcade Kids, such as their eagerness to sample the packaged attractions of that city. Four years on, with the help of a swimming scholarship from the University of Nebraska...

Heyns's lime-green cap remained in front throughout the race, even if Amanda Beard, a 14-year-old from the US, came uncomfortably close in the closing strokes.

Heyns's victory, to follow her world-record swim of 1min 07.46sec in the morning, has fired South Africa's belief that they are fit to host the 2004 Games.



Victory embrace... South Africa's Penelope Heyns is congratulated by the bronze-medallist Samantha Riley of Australia

'Franzi' caught on the rebound

FRANZISKA van Almsick became a symbol of German unification after her victories in the Barcelona Olympics...

metres freestyle did not materialise. The Nicaraguan-born Claudia Poll recorded 1min 58.16sec to claim Costa Rica's first Olympic gold with Van Almsick second...

pressure that I put on myself. Tom Dolan, an asthmatic, satisfied the United States' craving for gold with victory in the 400m individual medley...

came Britain's second individual finalist when he recorded the third fastest time in the heats of the 200m butterfly.

James Hickman, from the Stockport Metro Club, became Britain's second individual finalist when he recorded the third fastest time in the heats of the 200m butterfly.

Giles farms every corner

Hockey

Duncan Mackay

CALUM GILES will probably spend less than five minutes on the pitch during the Olympic tournament, yet he holds the key to the medal chances of British men's team.

tournament in Spain in this year, and is favourite to finish top scorer again here as he and his team-mates try to emulate the 1992 tournament winners in Seoul.

The man with the distinctive bandana is set to become the most recognisable figure in hockey in this country since Sean Kerly, the hero of that winning squad.

ing a badly bruised arm when the ball hit him, testament to the speed the ball travels from Giles's stick.

Giles's task has become so familiar to other teams that Britain have had to come up with a Plan B. That involves Giles as a decoy and distraction to the edge of the circle.



Bandana split... Giles finds the Korean net

Fighting draw with Dutch lifts British women's morale

Judo

Peter Nichols

GREAT Britain's women showed great character in fighting out a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in their second round-robin match of the Games only 34 hours after their ignominious 5-0 defeat by South Korea.

The defence played quite splendidly, too. If Karen Brown was masterful, Jill Atkins and Johnson were not far behind.

The programme is particularly tough in the heat here and Britain face their third match in 96 hours today. They play the US, who stole a late 3-3 win over South Korea yesterday when Barbara Marois scored from a corner.

Yesterday's results

Basketball

USA 77-67 Canada

Men's quadruple sculls

USA 6:54.82, 4. Slovenia 7:11.74, 3. Spain 7:22.46, 2. Germany 7:33.28

Women's single sculls

USA 4:18.22, 2. Canada 4:31.15, 3. Australia 4:44.08

Women's double sculls

USA 7:52.12, 2. Canada 8:05.05, 3. Australia 8:17.98

Women's coxless pair

USA 4:18.22, 2. Canada 4:31.15, 3. Australia 4:44.08

Women's eight

USA 6:02.12, 2. Canada 6:15.05, 3. Australia 6:27.98

Women's eight with coxswain

USA 6:02.12, 2. Canada 6:15.05, 3. Australia 6:27.98

Women's 100m

USA 1:07.46, 2. Canada 1:10.39, 3. Australia 1:13.32

Women's 200m

USA 2:15.12, 2. Canada 2:18.05, 3. Australia 2:20.98

Women's 400m

USA 4:41.16, 2. Canada 4:44.09, 3. Australia 4:47.02

Women's 800m

USA 1:58.16, 2. Canada 2:01.09, 3. Australia 2:04.02

Women's 1500m

USA 4:14.90, 2. Canada 4:17.83, 3. Australia 4:20.76

Women's 500m

USA 1:44.50, 2. Canada 1:47.43, 3. Australia 1:50.36

Women's 1000m

USA 3:58.16, 2. Canada 4:01.09, 3. Australia 4:04.02

Women's 50m

USA 26.15, 2. Canada 26.84, 3. Australia 27.53

Women's 100m

USA 57.46, 2. Canada 58.15, 3. Australia 58.84

Women's 200m

USA 1:12.12, 2. Canada 1:13.05, 3. Australia 1:13.98

Women's 400m

USA 2:25.16, 2. Canada 2:26.09, 3. Australia 2:27.02

Women's 800m

USA 5:01.16, 2. Canada 5:02.09, 3. Australia 5:03.02

Women's 1500m

USA 11:58.16, 2. Canada 11:59.09, 3. Australia 12:00.02

Women's 500m

USA 1:44.50, 2. Canada 1:47.43, 3. Australia 1:50.36

Women's 1000m

USA 3:58.16, 2. Canada 4:01.09, 3. Australia 4:04.02

Women's 2000m

USA 8:01.16, 2. Canada 8:02.09, 3. Australia 8:03.02

Women's 4000m

USA 16:01.16, 2. Canada 16:02.09, 3. Australia 16:03.02

Women's 8000m

USA 32:01.16, 2. Canada 32:02.09, 3. Australia 32:03.02

Women's 15000m

USA 64:01.16, 2. Canada 64:02.09, 3. Australia 64:03.02

Women's 30000m

USA 128:01.16, 2. Canada 128:02.09, 3. Australia 128:03.02

Women's 60000m

USA 256:01.16, 2. Canada 256:02.09, 3. Australia 256:03.02

Women's 1200m

USA 4:01.16, 2. Canada 4:02.09, 3. Australia 4:03.02

Women's 2400m

USA 8:01.16, 2. Canada 8:02.09, 3. Australia 8:03.02

Women's 4800m

USA 16:01.16, 2. Canada 16:02.09, 3. Australia 16:03.02

Women's 9600m

USA 32:01.16, 2. Canada 32:02.09, 3. Australia 32:03.02

Women's 19200m

USA 64:01.16, 2. Canada 64:02.09, 3. Australia 64:03.02

Women's 38400m

USA 128:01.16, 2. Canada 128:02.09, 3. Australia 128:03.02

Women's 76800m

USA 256:01.16, 2. Canada 256:02.09, 3. Australia 256:03.02

Women's 1500m

USA 4:14.90, 2. Canada 4:17.83, 3. Australia 4:20.76

Women's 3000m

USA 8:29.80, 2. Canada 8:35.66, 3. Australia 8:41.52

Women's 6000m

USA 16:59.60, 2. Canada 17:11.32, 3. Australia 17:23.04

Women's 12000m

USA 33:59.20, 2. Canada 34:22.64, 3. Australia 34:46.08

Women's 24000m

USA 67:58.40, 2. Canada 68:45.28, 3. Australia 69:32.16

Women's 48000m

USA 135:96.80, 2. Canada 137:30.56, 3. Australia 138:64.32

Women's 96000m

USA 271:93.60, 2. Canada 274:61.12, 3. Australia 277:28.64

Women's 1800m

USA 4:27.84, 2. Canada 4:31.68, 3. Australia 4:35.52

Women's 3600m

USA 8:55.68, 2. Canada 9:03.36, 3. Australia 9:11.04

Women's 7200m

USA 17:11.36, 2. Canada 17:26.72, 3. Australia 17:42.08

Women's 14400m

USA 34:22.72, 2. Canada 34:53.44, 3. Australia 35:24.16

Women's 28800m

USA 68:45.44, 2. Canada 70:06.88, 3. Australia 71:27.32

Women's 57600m

USA 137:30.88, 2. Canada 140:13.76, 3. Australia 142:54.64

Women's 115200m

USA 274:61.76, 2. Canada 278:27.52, 3. Australia 281:09.28

Women's 14400m

USA 34:22.72, 2. Canada 34:53.44, 3. Australia 35:24.16

Women's 28800m

USA 68:45.44, 2. Canada 70:06.88, 3. Australia 71:27.32

Women's 57600m

USA 137:30.88, 2. Canada 140:13.76, 3. Australia 142:54.64

Women's 115200m

USA 274:61.76, 2. Canada 278:27.52, 3. Australia 281:09.28

Women's 230400m

USA 549:23.52, 2. Canada 556:55.04, 3. Australia 562:18.56

Women's 460800m

USA 1098:47.04, 2. Canada 1113:10.08, 3. Australia 1124:37.12

Women's 921600m

USA 2196:94.08, 2. Canada 2226:20.16, 3. Australia 2248:74.24

Women's 1843200m

USA 4393:88.16, 2. Canada 4452:40.32, 3. Australia 4517:48.48

Women's 3686400m

USA 8787:76.32, 2. Canada 8904:80.64, 3. Australia 9034:96.96

Women's 7372800m

USA 17575:52.64, 2. Canada 17809:61.28, 3. Australia 18069:93.92

Women's 14745600m

USA 35151:05.28, 2. Canada 35619:22.56, 3. Australia 36139:87.84

Women's 29491200m

USA 70302:10.56, 2. Canada 71238:45.12, 3. Australia 72279:75.68

Women's 58982400m

USA 140604:21.12, 2. Canada 142476:90.24, 3. Australia 144559:51.36

Women's 117964800m

USA 281208:42.24, 2. Canada 284953:80.48, 3. Australia 289119:02.72

Crews warned against fierce heat

Sailing

Bob Fisher

COMPETITORS were warned about dangerous heat and humidity before the regatta got under way on Wassau Sound near Savannah yesterday.

Racing was delayed by an hour on all courses and it was soon raining heavily. A change from south-west-south to south was expected mid-afternoon, boosting winds to around 15 knots and threatening fiercer thunderstorms.

All the 10 medal classes will contest at least 11 races over 12 days, with the series for the three-handed Solings culminating with a match-race final. The first races for the 470s are tomorrow.

Britain's team manager Rod Carr has high expectations. His sailors have formed a reassuring team spirit, helping each other through the difficult business of boat and equipment measurement to ensure there are no psychological barriers as they go into the early races.

John Merricks and Ian Walker in the 470s are reckoned to be Britain's best chance for gold and yesterday they were watching races on Course C, where their initial action talks places studying the intricacies of the weather and current patterns and how they affect the boats.

Carr believes Ainslie, who won the fourth world championship last year, is "in the medal zone". Ainslie sees his main opponent as Robert Scheidt of Brazil, the world champion. "The Brazilian guy should be up there if he is as astute as he is," he said. "He's always at the top end of the fleet."

Sweatman waves Eccles flag before losing leg to champion

Judo

Peter Nichols

ROWENA SWEATMAN, from Eccles, became the first British judo player to win two fights here but missed out on the chance of a medal when she was defeated in the repechage final by the Cuban Odalis Revé, the reigning Olympic champion.

The best of the rest

Soccer

The favourites Brazil, with Juninho, Bebeto, Aldair and Ronaldinho in their ranks, suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by Japan and a huge setback to their hopes of winning their first Olympic title. In two other under-21 championships, lost 1-0 to Mexico and Ghana, the 1992 Games bronze medallists, went down by the same score to South Korea.

Swimming

Britain's women showed great character in fighting out a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in their second round-robin match of the Games only 34 hours after their ignominious 5-0 defeat by South Korea.

Equestrianism

Hughes, high fives and a promise of champagne greeted Bruce Davidson after his dressage test kept the United States in the lead of the three-day event. Davidson, on Hayday, added only 42.6 points to the US total of 123.0. With three rides out of four completed New Zealand were lying second with 137.0 and Canada third with 140.2. Davidson's score was the

Shooting

Artem Khadzhibekov of Russia won the men's 10-metre air rifle gold medal yesterday. Wolfgang Walzel Jr of Austria won the silver with 685.2 and the bronze went to Jean-Pierre Amat of France (683.1).

OLYMPIC GAMES: All Atlanta falls for the women's own Dream Team, page 14
RUGBY UNION: Twickenham must consider break with Sky, page 13

SportsGuardian

ATLANTA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS REACHING CRISIS POINT

Redgrave leads Village walk-out

Survival
John Duncan

STEVEN Redgrave backed up his harsh criticisms of the Games organisation with action yesterday when he and other members of the British rowing team walked out of the Olympic Village in central Atlanta, frustrated at the transport system and overcrowding.

Their colleagues on the British women's rowing team also made the news when they hijacked a bus to get to their Lake Lanier venue on time. The entire Latvian team has also moved out because of overcrowding and noise.

Redgrave and his partner Matthew Pinsent, along with the coxes four of Greg and Jimmy Searle, Tim Foster and Rupert Obholzer, departed early yesterday to stay in the Lanier Centre Hotel at Gainesville, closer to the rowing venue. The 55-mile journey from the Village had taken two hours by official bus before Redgrave hired a car and did the journey yesterday in 55 minutes.

"The guys have been frustrated with the system anyway and we discussed it yesterday with them and their coaches," said Dave Tanner, the British team manager.

"The transport has not been very good and the Village is a busy place. We just felt they would like some space."

The pair had complained publicly about transport arrangements after their win in Sunday's heats, saying they were "not prepared to have four years' hard work ruined by sloppy organisation".

The women's eight took matters into their own hands yesterday, hijacking a bus to Lake Lanier after waiting 40

minutes in the Village for official transport with other competitors from Ukraine and Poland. "We stood in the middle of the road and stopped all the buses going through in order to commandeer the first (empty) bus that came along," said Alison Gill, the British stroke.

"The police were screaming at us to get out of the road but soon enough one came along. The poor victim was going to the hockey but we piled on board and informed him that he was now going to Lake Lanier. I told him to just drive."

Other anecdotes of transportation disasters going the rounds include scores of volunteer drivers quitting, some in tears and others in mid-journey. There have also been reports of buses bursting into flames and transport breakdowns.

AD Frazier, deputy chief of the Atlanta organising committee ACOG, admitted yesterday's transport problems were horrific but said it would take a little time to get the system working. "It's rather like a dinosaur - the head makes a decision and 10 minutes later the tail wags," he said.

Atlanta's much-vaunted computerised results system, a multi-million dollar collaboration between a group of major Olympic sponsors, was still a shambles yesterday. Results were severely delayed and absurdities such as three-round boxing bouts going into a fourth round were being broadcast as fact.

At least the working week for commuting Atlantans started bright and early, with the car parks at outlying railway stations full by 8am.

The city's underground system, Marta, struggled to cope and commuters said journeys were taking about twice as long as normal. "It's Sardine City down there," said one local as she emerged from a Marta station. "Atlanta is in way over its head."



Stroking up the heat... Ireland's golden girl Michelle Smith makes waves after being cleared to swim in the 400 metres freestyle when US protests were rejected. DENIS PAQUIN

Irish turn on American 'bullies'

Swimming
David Hopps

IF President Clinton covets the Irish-American vote in his re-election campaign, then his foreign policy advisers should tell him to stay clear of Atlanta where the blood brothers are engaged in a feud over the Games' most controversial champion.

While the Irish revel in the folksy story of Michelle Smith's gold medal success in the pool, the Americans are lining up the battalions, even

trying to drum her out of last night's women's 400 metres freestyle final on technical grounds.

Smith, who became Ireland's first swimming gold medalist when she won the 400m individual medley, has also endured drug rumours, such as her astonishing surge through the world rankings, even though she has never tested positive.

Patrick Hickey, Ireland's representative on the IOC and president of their Olympic committee, fumed yesterday: "We are totally disillusioned with the attitude of the Americans. They've turned out to be very bad sports. It's just a case of Big Uncle Sam getting

up and trying to smash us down. They have left a lot of bad blood between us.

"They are jealous that a little country like Ireland has taken a gold medal off them. The Americans did everything they could to have Michelle Smith thrown out of the 400 freestyle when it is clear that it was an Olympic organisational mistake. It is scandalous.

"As far as the suggestions that she is on drugs are concerned, I have no doubt that Michelle is clear."

The United States' protest over Smith's inclusion in last night's 400m freestyle was supported by Germany and the Netherlands, two other

countries in contention for Olympic gold. The German Kerstin Kielgass pipped Smith by a hundredth of a second as the fastest qualifier, with the Netherlands' Kirstin Vlieghe close behind.

United States' visions of Janet Evans, who had handed the torch to Muhammad Ali at the opening ceremony, winning a fifth gold medal and equalling the record for an American woman were dashed when she finished ninth fastest and missed a place in the final.

Dermot Sherlock, secretary general of the Irish Olympic Committee, insisted that Olympic organisers had twice assured him that the entry

deadline for competitors was the opening day, July 20, and that Smith's late entry for the 400m freestyle - a change of heart after a stunning swim in a Florida meet - was cleared on July 17. Rival countries state that the closing date was July 5.

On that basis the Americans approached the technical committee of Fina, swimming's governing body, who upheld their protest. Ireland, incensed, appealed directly to the IOC, through their sports director Gilbert Fell. That appeal was upheld only minutes before Smith's gold medal swim in the 400m individual medley on Saturday.

Mark Schubert, coach to

Evans, was unrepentant, describing the IOC intervention as "a disgusting example of politics in sport".

"The entry of an athlete lies solely with the Olympic organisers, not with the swimming federation," Sherlock responded. "Only when it became clear that Michelle Smith was a medal prospect did the Americans take steps to have her removed.

"This is a fairy story. Michelle swam in Seoul and Barcelona and came nowhere. Now she is a gold medalist. We all live in fear, with all our athletes, that one day a positive drugs test will happen to us. But we will not respond to rumours."

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Shearer back to settle his future with Rovers

Russell Thomas

ALAN SHEARER will attempt to resolve his much publicised future when he meets Blackburn's chairman Robert Coar on Friday after persistent speculation that he is about to leave Ewood Park in a British record deal.

The England striker, leading scorer of Euro 96, has been linked with Manchester United, Newcastle and several Italian clubs, including the champions Milan, in deals ranging from £12 million to £17 million and was said to be considering his future while on holiday in the Bahamas.

But he would shed little light on his future yesterday as he spoke publicly for the first time since returning from holiday. "I have been made aware of some newspaper stories of the past two or three weeks," he said, "and

will doubtless have a chat with the chairman Robert Coar when I return to training at the end of the week to find out the reality behind the headlines."

Shearer will start training on Friday, a calendar month after England's elimination from Euro 96. But he said: "I will probably just loosen up on Friday and return to full training from Monday onwards." He added jokingly: "I have never been a great pre-season trainer, so the idea of starting a few days late seems a good one to me."

Manchester United are giving a trial to a 17-year-old considered one of the hottest properties in Yugoslavian football. Although Marco Marcovic, a midfielder, has been playing with Partizan Belgrade, a permanent transfer would not be difficult because he holds an EC passport because of Italian descent.

United's manager Alex Fer-

guson said: "Marco comes to us very highly recommended and I'm sure he will develop over the next couple of years. It is very much a case of wait and see, but the boy will be given every chance."

Peter Gilman, Leeds' vice-chairman, yesterday began a High Court attempt to block a planned takeover of the club by the Caspian media group that would provide £12 million for new players.

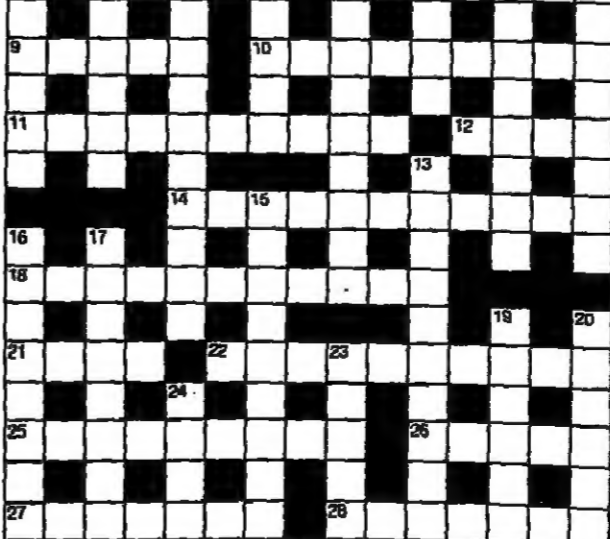
Gilman, one of three directors with equal shares in the club, claims the proposed takeover by Caspian will water down his holding and he may be forced to work with people he does not wish to, in contravention of an agreement in 1992.

Gilman, who supports a rival offer from the Conrad group, is seeking an order that Leslie Silver and Bill Pothby sell their shares to him or be prevented from selling them to Caspian.

Alan Smithee is not a man of discerning taste, attaching himself to titles like Ghost Fever, Appointment With Fear, The Bloodsucking Pharaohs Of Pittsburgh, even a US-New Zealand co-production called The Shrimp On The Barbie.

Guardian Crossword No 20,712

Set by Plodge



- Across**
- 1 Running after one of the 11, alien with a torch... (7)
 - 5... had problems on foot. The Spanish 11 noisily tailed Black... (7)
 - 9... the first European to take steps to do a bolt (5)
 - 10 Promoters of pink paper penned by pooh pincers? (8)
 - 11 Great Britain elevates processed food suppliers (10)
 - 12 Though far from toothless, he's said to be a poor old thing (4)
 - 14 When the dog barks loudly, reduce one of the 11 (11)
 - 18 Contrived to burn Queen Anne's 11 (6,5)
 - 21 Run through some of the Norse epics (4)
 - 22 In pursuit of some culture one gasps for 11 (10)
 - 25 One of the 11 found at an Inn back in Ulster? (9)
- Down**
- 1 About to quit Spilt? (5)
 - 2 Quite upset, one expressed aversion... (6)
 - 3... to accept less sculpture for exhibitions (10)
 - 4 Cadge a lift with Tom (5)
 - 5 Everyone in Ireland's taken to the graduate tripper (8)
 - 6 Fellow follower turned up no great shakes (4)
 - 7 For some, 12 holds an alternative (3,2,3)
 - 8 Casement's falling, so Chard's demented (4-4)
 - 13 Something in the pan to

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,711

worry Private Walker, perhaps? (5,5)
16 States association counter to circus opening (9)
16 Having carried off a First, Bill produced some wine (8)
17 "Unman" in the French covers raised complaint (8)
19 The draught of two boats? (5)
20 A sibilant sough of Spanish words said sotto-voce... (6)
23... which pointlessly poisoned perceptions (5)
24 Will house agent hold Masans wee hand? (4)

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